



*The Friends of Holland Park*  
*Spring 2010*

*Bluebells in the Park*  
*Photo by Joy Puritz*



# Your Committee

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**Treasurer** David Jeffreys

**Editor & Minutes Secretary** Joy Puritz

**Art Exhibition Organiser** Andy Walker

Nigel Brockmann

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[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 all and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please!

## Email Addresses



A big thank you to all those members who have given us their e-mail addresses. Of course a number do not have one and they might not realise how useful it is to us. It is always cheaper than a letter or phone call, indeed it costs nothing, is nearly always quicker than either and provides a permanent record where required. Any one member might hear no more than two or three times a year from us with circulars giving breaking news or reminders of events. We are committed to conserving members' privacy by sending these as blind copies. Additionally it is often the easiest way to contact individuals who want to know whether they have paid their subscriptions, or where we have difficulty reading a communication from them or they have omitted a cheque from their envelope.

So this is a plea to any member who has an e-mail address who has not told us, or has changed their address, to let us know. The easiest method is a quick

e-mail(!) but there is also always a space on membership application forms and the order forms in the newsletters.

## Subscription Reminder and Standing Orders



Thank you to all those who have renewed their subscriptions for 2010. The subscription year started on 1 January when all renewals were due except from those members who have joined since September 2009. Currently we have about 740 members paid up for 2010, including over 500 who paid by standing order on 1 January. That leaves about 200 who have not yet paid, and if you have not done so you will find your order form is green. If yours is green, PLEASE PAY NOW.

On the back of each green order form is a standing order form. If you fill this in, you need never remember again.

# Annual General Meeting



**Wednesday, 24 March**  
**7.30pm in the Orangery**

The Annual General Meeting is the only formal opportunity of the year when members have the chance to hear what the committee has been doing in the previous year, to learn what it hopes to do during the next twelve months, and to raise questions.

There is some official business to complete of course, such as the accounts and elections to the committee, but mostly the meeting is spent giving and receiving news and information about the Park and the things which affect it, for good or ill.

We do hope that as many members as possible will come, because it really is important to your committee to hear what you feel about our work and events, and what you might like to see happening in the Park; we want truly to represent

your views and opinions. We do on occasion have to make strong arguments on behalf of the Park and it is much more powerful when we know the membership is firmly in support.

The AGM is held during the time of our annual art exhibition in the Orangery and after the meeting there is the chance to view the exhibits while enjoying a glass or two of wine with fellow Friends.

You have heard before our pleas for members to volunteer for the committee. We are particularly looking for someone to promote the interests of The Friends and their events. Now that we are able to sell tickets to the general public it is important that we take advantage of that new opportunity to meet prospective members. If this is something you think you could do to support The Friends, do please call your chairman or secretary to talk about it.

## Pimm's in the Park



**Tuesday, 20 July**  
**6.00 - 8.00pm in the youth hostel garden**

We decided last year that after a long break we should reinstate our summer Pimm's in the Park party – and it was a great success so we are going to repeat it this year.

The party will again be held in the garden of the youth hostel, thanks to the kindness of Sally Martyn-Johns, the manager (*pictured centre*). Many of you might never have had the opportunity of seeing inside the garden, other than perhaps a glimpse through the railings. It is very attractive and well worth seeing. There is no opera performance scheduled for that evening, but maybe we shall be serenaded by a rehearsal, and of course the youth hostel will be humming in high summer.

If you were unable to come last year, do put the date in your diary now. If you were with us last year, then you'll probably want to be there again. We shall also be serving Janice Miles' delicious canapés with a summertime flavour. Please order your tickets at £12 each on the enclosed order form.



*Photo by Ann Hopkins*

A small but significant celebration took place outside the cafeteria one afternoon in mid-December, just before sunset. An enthusiastic group of Friends, joined by Councillors and Park staff, met to enjoy mulled wine (very necessary) and mince pies. What could possibly be so important as to cause a break in preparations for Christmas?

Our chairman, Nicholas Hopkins, explained that ever since the ceramic tiles had been conserved during 2004-6 we had wished to install better lighting under the arches. It had been a long haul to find the right method, but with the help of Light Projects Ltd a flexible system had been designed and installed.



*Councillor Paget-Brown with our chairman in the "bird room". Photo courtesy of RBK&C.*

Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, responsible for the Park within his broad cabinet portfolio, welcomed the development, thanked The Friends for their donation and declared the lighting officially switched on.

The phased, coloured lighting not only picks out and accentuates the main colours of the tiles, but greatly improves the general ambience of the cafeteria arcade, making it a much more attractive place to enjoy one's coffee, especially on dark days. The tiles in the "bird room", closest to Holland House, are particular beneficiaries, showing off their glorious colours for the first time, but all of the tiled panels can now be seen to full advantage.

## Art Exhibition



20 – 28 March 2010 at The Orangery

The time of our art exhibition in the Orangery is fast approaching. The aim is, as always, to raise funds for The Friends of Holland Park, gain favourable publicity for the organisation, to attract new members and, last but not least, to give pleasure to all our visitors.

Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to **exhibit up to ten works** in the exhibition, two of which will be hung and up to eight shown in the portfolio stands. Most of the works are paintings, some are photographs, and we can also exhibit up to ten three-dimensional objects per artist such as ceramics, glassware and small sculptures. Full details for artists can be found on the website:

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

or from Mrs Andy Walker, 4 Iverna Gardens, London W8 6TN. If you would like to enter the exhibition, remember that **the deadline for receiving the full details of your entry is 1 March**. Works should be delivered to the Orangery for the exhibition on Friday, 19 March from 9am to 12 noon.

This year we have a new idea: there will be a **mini-market** near the entrance where artists will be able to sell small, mostly three-dimensional, works for

£40 and under. Exhibits such as small pieces of pottery, small sculptures, stationery or other craft works which the artists do not consider would sell for the minimum £50 stipulated for the main exhibition can be shown here. Space for each artist is limited so, if you are interested, see the information for artists on the website and contact Rhoddy Wood who is arranging the mini-market.

Artists who have registered for the main exhibition with the £10 entry fee will be entitled to ask for space in the mini-market without further payment. Those who want to enter only the mini-market will register with a payment of £10, as well as becoming Friends. Goods in the mini-market will not be listed individually in the catalogue but the names of the artists will be.

As usual a prize of £150 for artistic excellence will be awarded, together with two prizes of £75 each, one for the work which best expresses the essential spirit and quality of Holland Park, and one for a three-dimensional work.

Do come and take part in this event, and we hope you enjoy the experience.



## Art Exhibition Timetable

### ADMINISTRATION

Mon 1 March		<b>Last date</b> for receipt of Exhibits Details Form to allow listing in catalogue. <i>Five free preview tickets sent to each artist if we have been informed of date preference.</i>
Fri 19 March	9am – noon	Artists deliver work to the Orangery, Holland Park. <i>Artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that the details shown are correct.</i>
Fri 19 March	noon – 6pm	Works will be hung/displayed.

### COLLECTION OF WORKS AFTER THE EXHIBITION

Sun 28 March	6 – 7pm	Buyers collect sold works; artists collect unsold works.
Mon 29 March	9 – 11am	Buyers collect sold works; artists collect unsold works. <i>Artists are particularly asked not to collect their works before 6pm on Sunday 28 March, as this would spoil the exhibition for others.</i>

### EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

#### Private views:

Sat 20 March, 10.30am – 12.30pm  
Mon 22 March, 7 – 9pm  
Private view, entry by ticket.  
Price £3.

*Artists are entitled to five free tickets between the two private views, to be ordered on the Exhibits Details Form.*

#### Open to the public:

Sat 20 March, 1 – 6pm  
Sun 21 March to Sunday 28 March,  
10.30am – 6pm  
Public view free of charge.

Enquiries to Andy Walker  
4 Iverna Gardens, London W8 6TN  
Tel. 020 7937 3322, or [a.m.walker@virgin.net](mailto:a.m.walker@virgin.net)

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# The Friends of Holland Park

## Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2009

	£	<u>2008</u> £
<b>Incoming Resources:</b>		
Donations	4,310	5,942
Legacy	-	2,000
<b>Activities in furtherance of objects:</b>		
Subscriptions	13,093	11,748
Advertising	1,330	2,892
<b>Activities for generating funds:</b>		
Events	9,628	7,042
Sale of merchandise	1,441	1,742
<b>Interest</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>3,582</b>
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b><u>30,802</u></b>	<b><u>34,948</u></b>
<b>Resources Expended:</b>		
<b>Cost of generating funds</b>		
Fundraising direct costs	394	879
Event expenses	7,087	5,354
Cost of merchandise	679	665
	<b><u>8,160</u></b>	<b><u>6,898</u></b>
<b>Charitable Expenditure:</b>		
Newsletter	5,573	5,689
Grants	23,226	180
	<b><u>28,799</u></b>	<b><u>5,869</u></b>
<b>Governance Costs</b>	<b><u>755</u></b>	<b><u>2,287</u></b>
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b><u>37,714</u></b>	<b><u>15,054</u></b>
<b>Net (Outgoing)/Incoming Resources</b>	<b>(6,912)</b>	<b>19,894</b>
Fund balances brought forward	75,324	55,430
<b>Fund Balances carried forward</b>	<b><u>68,412</u></b>	<b><u>75,324</u></b>

## Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2009

	£	<u>2008</u> £
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Debtors and prepayments	281	1,466
Deposit and current accounts	<b><u>70,006</u></b>	<b><u>77,563</u></b>
	<b>70,287</b>	<b>79,029</b>
<b>Creditors:</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	1,875	3,705
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b><u>68,412</u></b>	<b><u>75,324</u></b>

*These accounts have been approved by the Trustees but have not yet been independently examined.*

# “Trees of Two Continents” by Dr Prabha Patwardhan



Dr Patwardhan is a medical doctor by training and a homoeopath by conviction, whose concentration on natural remedies reinforced her interest in plants acquired from her father-in-law. Now retired, she divides her time between her home in Pune, India, and long visits to family in Melbourne and Oakwood Court, W14. While abroad, she started to observe trees and shrubs which grew in the streets and parks near her. The idea came that she would like to produce a book that would be suitable for family and friends who were not necessarily botanically aware, thus passing on her love of plants to the next generation.

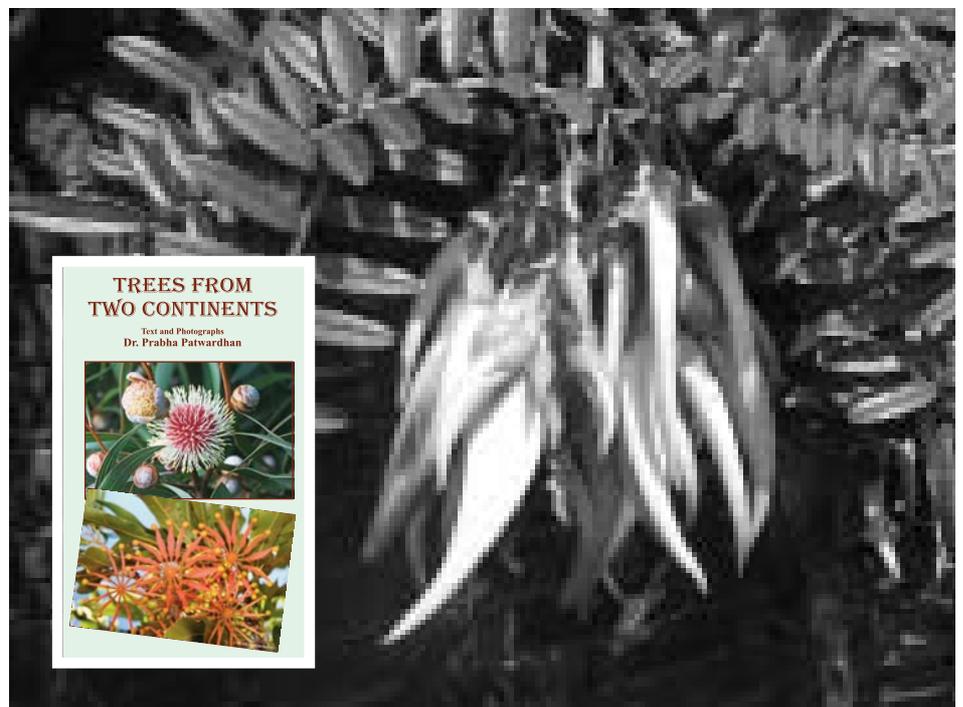
times of the year, with an unusually strong collection of autumn fruits as well as earlier flowers.

Those who know Holland Park might think that only half of the book could be relevant to them. Intriguingly, this is not the case because many of the species are common to both, and Dr Patwardhan’s wider knowledge of Indian plants also contributes.

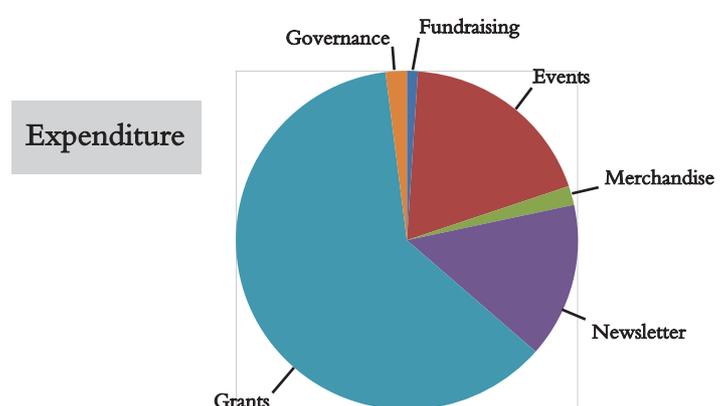
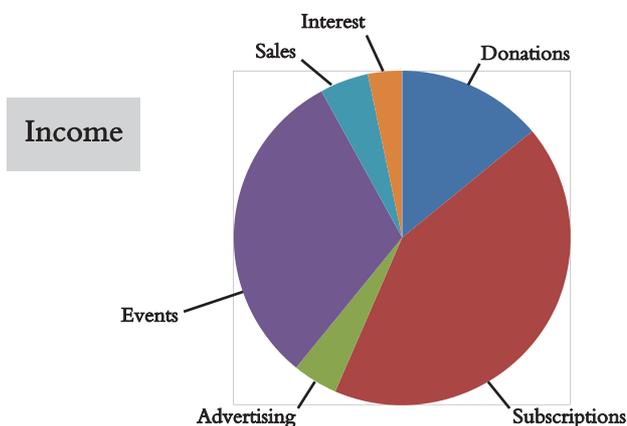
I commend this book to all as an easy way into the study of plants, which can be an absorbing pastime. Please ask for your copy on the enclosed order form; the Friends make a profit of £4 on every copy sold.

The result is a fascinating study of what actually grows in and around Holland Park and the suburb of Murrumbeena, in Melbourne. In addition to the main list, walks round Holland Park are given so that readers may know what to expect, border by border. There are also brief excursions into Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park and Kew Gardens. For simplicity, emphasis is on the common names of plants but scientific names have also been added and many plants have been illustrated with the author’s own photographs to make identification easy. Dr Patwardhan visited at different seasons and this is reflected in photographs taken at different

*Rhoddy Wood*



*Lober claw, Clianthus puniceus, grows in Holland Park and Melbourne*



In Holland Park nowadays, and at any time of year, a distinctive bird sound (I hesitate to call it “birdsong”) is the squawking call of the ring-necked parakeet, also known as the rose-ringed parakeet or, in Latin, *Psittacula krameri*. I first heard and saw this bird when on a guided pilgrimage to Canterbury at the end of December 1999, south east of Blackheath on the Kent borders. I was told then that these exotic birds, kept as pets since Victorian times, had escaped or been released from captivity over many decades and were establishing themselves in the south east (some escaped during filming of *The African Queen* in Shepperton Studios in 1951, and from aviaries damaged by the 1987 hurricane). According to the British Trust for Ornithology the bird began breeding annually in the UK in 1969, the two largest populations being in the southern part of Greater London and in the Isle of Thanet, Kent. The population in Thanet has been increasing by 15% per year, in Greater London by 30%, and the range in the latter area has been expanding by 0.4 km per year. The first sighting in Holland Park is thought to have been in 2006. In 2007 five were spotted, and now David Darrell-Lambert, who conducted the 2009 bird survey for our borough, believes that three pairs are breeding here. Rhoddy Wood, our secretary, saw a pair of great spotted woodpeckers becoming very aggressive toward parakeets approaching their nest hole but, sadly, woodpeckers have been driven out in at least one area of west London.

Although they are naturally vegetarian – eating fruit, berries, nuts, seeds and grain – these birds will eat any kinds of scraps available in urban and suburban environments, which is why they seem so happy in any of

Greater London’s thirty-three boroughs where they will also raid, and often damage, bird feeders. The spring-loaded feeder in the Dutch Garden in Holland Park has perches which, when stood on by heavier birds, bring down a shutter covering the feed holes. This has mostly defeated the pigeons, but the parakeets have such prehensile claws that they are able to hang on to the feed holes themselves instead of standing on the spring-loaded perches. Fortunately they have not damaged the feeder, nor can they get much from the caged feeder next to it, but ideally completely parakeet-proof feeders are needed. Some believe that these birds would not survive English winters without the food in gardens, and being rather sedentary in their habits they are likely to stay here, and any seen elsewhere in the country – and there have been sightings in almost every county, in Wales and the Scottish borders – are most likely to be local escapees. There are three other species of parakeet breeding in the wild in Britain: the monk parakeet, the alexandrine parakeet and the blue-crowned parakeet.

The Indian ring-necked parakeet is a mid-sized, long-tailed pale green bird with a red, parrot-type beak. Beneath its bill the male has a small black bib which extends back across the neck in a thin black line bordered by pink or orange. Its original habitat is the Himalayas but it is now widespread from Asia across the Middle East to West Africa. Coming from the mountains it has had no trouble adapting to British winter temperatures. It is a hole-nester and often starts nesting in the UK as early as January, giving it the opportunity to take over nest boxes or woodpecker, owl and nuthatch nest holes before the competition starts. Nesting success is very high.

The 2-4 eggs are incubated for three weeks and the fledglings cared for by both parents; the young fledge at 40-50 days old and normally mature to breed at three years. These birds have few predators and outcompete local birds for food. They now number about 44,000 in Britain and their spread needs to be monitored. Defra (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) is funding research to assess potential negative impacts on our native bird species. There is also growing evidence of damage to crops, orchard fruits and vines.

On 3 October 2009 Natural England made a statement that although the licensing situation for culling would

*Parakeet on the spring-loaded feeder*  
Photo by David Darrell-Lambert



No, this isn't an article about one of the famous pre-war shooting parties the Ilchesters used to hold in the Park. During his breeding bird survey of Holland Park in 2009 David Darrell-Lambert saw two woodcock fly up from the northern end of the sports field early in the morning of 29 March, and during the evening of 16 April he heard a bird calling from the northern woodland. Great stuff! Unlikely I'm afraid that we can count woodcock as one of our regular breeders, but please keep a look out this spring. The survey, which took place between February and May and was the first to be carried out in the Royal Borough since 2006, produced some fascinating findings. No less than twenty-eight species of bird were regarded by the survey as breeding in the Park. They included our regular "garden birds": great, blue and coal tit, long-tailed tit, wren, robin, blackbird, song and mistle thrush, dunnock (hedge sparrow), chaffinch and greenfinch, great spotted woodpecker and starling. Other regulars were the little goldcrest (our smallest bird), wood pigeon, crow, magpie and jay. Mallard were included but not moorhen (please see the article in last Autumn's newsletter) simply because there was no evidence of breeding at the time of the survey. By no means regular in the past, but also on the list, were goldfinch, rose-ringed parakeet (see Joy Puritz's article to the left), stock dove, tawny owl and – quite a surprise – green woodpecker and nuthatch. In the case of these last two however, a word of caution: green woodpeckers regularly visit the Park but are not by any means present every day and can hardly be classified as



*Woodcock*

“resident”. Their song was heard during the survey but they might have nested outside the Park. The nuthatch (small, with a blue back and yellowish breast, longish beak, rather like a mini-woodpecker and something of a coup for the Park) has been seen quite often over the past two years, mostly on the cage feeder in the Dutch Garden. Its song was last heard during the survey on 1 May, then there was a gap until its reappearance in the Park in September, so it is doubtful it bred here.

Our regular spring migrants, the blackcap and chiffchaff, also figure on the list – up to six pairs of blackcap but only one of chiffchaff.

A winter footnote: the harsh weather has brought some compensations for the enthusiastic birder in the Park. As well as the usual variety of black-headed, common and herring gulls there have been several sightings of redwings, the pretty winter thrush from Scandinavia. On 15 January I counted over fifty on the sports field. They have been joined by a few of their larger and handsome, colourful cousins, the fieldfare, on two or three occasions – indeed on 14 January we had all the thrushes present on the sports field together: blackbird, song thrush, mistle thrush, redwing, fieldfare. Excellent!

*David Jeffreys*

*David Darrell-Lambert's website address is  
[www.birdbrainuk.com](http://www.birdbrainuk.com)*

change from 1 January 2010, neither monk nor ring-necked parakeets would then be considered as pests (pests may be “freely removed” by members of the public), nor was Natural England calling for the eradication of these species. It is still illegal to kill or interfere with these birds except in exceptional circumstances, and in such cases a licence would be needed. From 1 January there was a change in the way people can apply for culling licences: previously they had to apply individually, but now, through a general licence, permission is automatically available to, for instance, farmers whose crops are being damaged, or where a habitat needs to be conserved, but only when scaring or exclusion tactics have proved ineffective. Except for such proven cases of damage, therefore, these species are still protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (but it is illegal to release a parakeet or allow one to escape). Potential control

methods include trapping or shooting. Defra is funding research on the feasibility of chemical sterilants for controlling parakeet populations which might prove necessary in the future.

More alien species live in Britain than in any other European country, mainly due to the movement of people and goods in trade: think of all those Commonwealth countries with which we connect. The jury is still out on the subject of parakeets, but many fear that they pose a serious threat to our smaller birds. Some will point out that we have been introducing non-native species for hundreds of years: take potatoes, dahlias and cats, for instance. Are we being eco-xenophobic to consider the ring-necked parakeet as the grey squirrel with wings?

*Joy Puritz*



## Christmas Carol Concert

We were fortunate to have the Tallis Chamber Choir and their conductor Philip Simms with us once again to entertain an audience of some 120 in the Orangery with the usual combination of familiar and unfamiliar carols from the Netherlands, France, Germany and the Basque country as well as the United Kingdom. We started with an old faithful, *Hodie Christus natus est* by J.P. Sweelinck (1562-1621), a leading Dutch composer and organist and a precursor of J.S. Bach. This was followed by the first of two carols by the French composer Francis Poulenc (1899-1963), which were two of four pieces written 1951-52 under the title *Quatre motets pour le temps de Noël*, and were challenging for both the choir and the audience as they were atonal in parts. Then followed a beautiful and tuneful carol by John Rutter (b. 1945), which brought us back to familiar territory. We then had another traditional-sounding carol by Edmund Rubbra (1901-86), a prolific English composer, whose music is rarely performed these days. The first part of the concert ended with a carol by Peter

Gritton (b. 1963), an English composer and the current Director of Music at St Paul's Girls School, which had the feeling of 1930s swing music – perhaps not surprising as he has composed two musicals and backing tracks for Sting.



*Edmund Rubbra*

The second half started with the well known *In dulci jubilo*, a 14th-century German carol in the arrangement by R.L. Pearsall (1795-1856), an English barrister turned composer who emigrated to Germany in 1842 and later moved to Switzerland. This was followed by a Basque carol, *I saw a Maiden*, and then by an African song *Kwmbayah*, arranged by K.J. Dinham, a very jolly and happy piece. We finished with two old favourites, *Ding dong merrily on high* and Philip Simms' arrangement of *Have yourself a merry little Christmas*, the former in a most unusual arrangement in 5/4 time by William Llewellyn (b. 1925).

As usual, the choir's carols were interspersed with familiar carols sung by the audience, which was in good voice, and also by readings, this time undertaken by members of the choir, some of whom demonstrated considerable Thespian talent. The outstanding reading was a brilliant piece, *The art of sending Christmas cards*, from which we could all learn a lot when considering whether and what to send to certain people. It was written by William Connor, who died in 1967, a celebrated columnist in *The Daily Mirror* for over thirty years under the pen name Cassandra.

We are most grateful to Philip Simms for his ingenuity in devising such a novel and entertaining programme beautifully sung by the choir. At the end of a most enjoyable evening Janice Miles excelled herself with the quality and quantity of the food she produced and, as always, the wine flowed freely.

*George Law*



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## Dates for your Diary



All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. Our bird/nature walks (BNW) will continue to take place on the first Saturday of each month (except August) under the direction of our knowledgeable and informative guide, Ian Thomson. Meet him at Lord Holland's statue at 9am. The walks are free and everyone is welcome, not just Members, so please come and encourage your friends: they might become Members too! We recommend you bring binoculars if you can – they make such a difference.

Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBK&C are listed as "ES"; unless otherwise stated they are free of charge, meeting in the Ecology Centre (Stable Yard). It is advisable to ring the Ecology Centre on 020 7938 8186 or e-mail [ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk) for details of any changes, for further events or, especially for the children's activities, to check whether they are fully booked or not.

Mon 15 – Fri 19 Feb	ES. Holiday activities for 5–10 year olds. Booking required. £3.50	10am
Sat 6 Mar	<b>BNW</b>	
Sat 20 Mar – Sun 28 Mar	<b>Annual Art Exhibition</b> in the Orangery. See timetable herein.	
Wed 24 Mar	<b>FHP AGM</b> in the Orangery.	7.30pm
Sat 3 Apr	<b>BNW</b>	
Tues 6 – Fri 16 Apr	ES. Easter holiday activities for 5–10 year olds. Booking required. £3.50	10am
Fri 9 Apr	ES. Wild night out for 5–10 year olds with accompanying adult. Booking required. £3.50	7pm
Sat 1 May	<b>BNW</b>	
Sun 2 May	ES. Dawn chorus walk with Des McKenzie. Meet in car park.	5.30am
Wed 5 May	ES. Bat walk and talk (London Bat Group). Booking required.	8.30pm
Sun 9 May	ES. Spring Wildlife Open Day. In the wildlife area.	2pm
Wed 12 May	ES. Adult pond dipping. Booking required.	7pm
Sat 22 May	ES. Spring tree walk with Dr Alan Harrington.	11am
Tues 1 – Fri 4 June	ES. Holiday activities for 5–10 year olds. Booking required. £3.50	10am
Sat 5 June	<b>BNW</b>	
Sat 5 June	ES. Environment Day.	6.30pm
Sat 12 – Sun 13 June	London Garden Squares Open Weekend. Details from: <a href="http://www.londongardenstrust.org">www.londongardenstrust.org</a> or 020 7839 3969.	
Wed 23 June	ES. Adult minibeast hunt (National Insect Week). Booking required.	7pm
Sat 3 July	<b>BNW</b>	
Tues 20 July	<b>Pimm's in the Park.</b> In the youth hostel garden. £12	6 – 8pm

## Opera Holland Park



Contrary to popular perception, The Friends of Holland Park is a quite separate organisation from Opera Holland Park Friends; we are often confused with them. Nevertheless, we are happy to carry the announcement of their upcoming productions for this summer.

For priority postal bookings join Opera Holland Park Friends. Call 020 7361 3910 or e-mail [friends@operahollandpark.com](mailto:friends@operahollandpark.com). Online booking opens to the general public on 26 March and telephone booking on 29 March.

### *Pelléas et Mélisande* by Debussy

June 1, 3, 9, 11, 16

### *Carmen* by Bizet

June 2, 4, 5, 7, 8 (Charity Gala), 10, 12, 15, 17, 18, 19

### *Don Giovanni* by Mozart

June 28, 30. July 2, 4 (matinée), 6, 8, 10, 12, 14

### *Fidelio* by Beethoven

July 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13

### *La forza del destino* by Verdi

July 27, 29, 31. August 4, 6, 10, 12, 14

### *Francesca da Rimini* by Zandonai

July 30. August 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13



# The key.

Recently, we've been talking a lot about local know how. People ask us, what does it mean and why is it important?

Well, we recognise estate agents don't have a great image and yes, it's hard for us to admit that. A reputation that is, perhaps, based more on whizzy cars, than quality of service.

But we also know this; that the best agents are highly valued because they know the area they work intimately. They know the people who live there. They know the different streets and properties inside and out. Where there should be a bus stop,

but isn't. They are able to take the weight off your shoulders and add significant value in the process. To sum up: they get better results.

This is the central principle that our business is based upon. We aim to be an agency that not only understands the local area around our offices better than any other agent, we expect our knowledge to make the difference for you. Which is why the properties we deal with don't stand around unsold or unlet for too long. Ask any local. **Local Know How. Better results.**