

The Friends of Holland Park

Summer 2015



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Tuesday, 27 October, 7pm in the Orangery

We are fortunate that Hugh Johnson has agreed to give our autumn talk, not only because he is a renowned expert on trees, but because he loves to share his enthusiasm for them, common and uncommon, exotic or native, including our own wonderful trees in Holland Park where he is a regular visitor.

Hugh is the author of *The International Book of Trees*, was Editorial Director of *The Garden* (the RHS journal) for many years and writes *Tradescant's Diary* which appears online and in *Hortus* magazine. He is also the expert behind all



Hugh Johnson

those helpful guides on wine, but that's another story.

In his book he says his aim was to bring trees into focus for everybody who was aware of and loved trees, and to tell their story through words and pictures. That is what I think he will do for us, and we are in for a treat.

Tickets are £15, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To order tickets please use the order form enclosed with your newsletter, or download it from our website.

Pimm's in the Park

Tuesday, 14 July, 6-8pm in the Orangery

Our annual Pimm's party this year falls on Bastille Day which fits in well with this issue's lead article about Napoleon and the Hollands. Unusually, this year the party will be held in the Orangery and, if fine, on its lawn, due to the unavailability of the youth hostel garden. There is no opera performance in the park that evening, so no date-clash there, and you still have

time to order your tickets and look forward to Pimm's or soft drinks and luscious canapés. The event is only open to Friends and their immediate guests, and we will be inviting one or two special ones.

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



This photograph, of Holland House seen through one of the arches by the Belvedere, was exhibited by Nadhira Benaissa, and won the 'Spirit of Holland Park' prize at our 2015 Art Exhibition

The Friends' AGM was held on 22 April 2015. The President, Sir Angus Stirling, welcomed those present, and the minutes of the 2014 meeting were approved.

Trustees' Report for 2014 delivered by Andy Walker:

Meetings with the developers of the Commonwealth Institute building site and the management of the Design Museum were productive. Planning permission for the Dukes Lodge development had been turned down. The Belvedere's application for a licence for the Orangery was not granted following objections to its terms. A meeting was held with Safestay, the new lessee of the youth hostel, to assess the impact on the park. Discussions continued regarding suitable alternatives for the Opera's ancillary buildings. The Friends donated a sculpture for the Sun Trap Garden, sponsored Ecology Centre events and funded features of the newly-built Ecology Centre. A guidebook to the park was produced and sold at the subsidised price of £2. Events generated a surplus of over £5K.



Joy Puritz

Friends gathering for the AGM

The Secretary's Report delivered by Rhoddy Wood:

Membership levels were sustained through word of mouth, letter-box drops and perhaps the new discount card scheme. The subscription figures appeared to be down due to an accounting technicality. At the trustees' May meeting it was made clear that membership has now increased.

Election of Trustees:

Kathleen Hall decided not to stand again and was thanked for her many years of loyal contribution. All other existing trustees were re-elected. Charles Bauccio was elected trustee and Treasurer, and Graham Franklin trustee.

Chairman's Outlook for 2015 delivered by Jennie Kettlewell:

Much has happened since the AGM and this is an opportunity to update you,

rather than report on the situation as it was in mid-April.

The Design Museum is due to open late 2016. The developer's contribution will fund conservation of the Earls Court entrance gates.

The developers of the Campden Hill site, previously Holland Park School's playground, had asked for the screen of trees between it and the park to be thinned, to which the Friends have strongly objected.

Safestay, who hold the new 50-year licence for the youth hostel, have been granted planning and listed-building consent to refurbish the interior of the Grade-1-listed East Wing of Holland House, and to carry out remedial work to the exterior. Consent has also been granted for refurbishment of the interior, and re-cladding of the exterior of the modern 'Casson' building.

Improvements to the Holland House site are now being considered holistically, including further work on position and designs for the 'Holland Park Pavilions'. These buildings would be owned by RBK&C and leased to Opera Holland Park in summer. The Friends have agreed to exploration of pavilion buildings that could be removed easily without damage to the site, but would remain all year, on condition certain criteria are met. No acceptable designs have yet been tabled and no decision has been made regarding designs other than further exploration. If potentially suitable designs are proposed, there will be a full public consultation. It is likely that the next design phase will have to be advertised for



Joy Puritz

Holland House on a winter's day

The Treasurer's Report delivered by Charles Bauccio:

A Report of the Trustees incorporating Accounts for the Year to 31 December 2014 had been circulated and independently examined. The cash balance of £102,264 was some £3K more than that of 2013. Event income and costs were up, the surplus being £5,283. Funding grants were slightly down, reflecting the difficulty of getting approved projects implemented.

competitive tender by conservation architects. Also being considered are improvements to the café, the lease of which will go out to tender once the many issues have been addressed; and improvement to the front terrace of Holland House to provide a more appropriate environment when the opera is not on site.



Woodlands in the park

We are aware that an individual is contacting many people, including the council, talking about his aspiration to take over responsibility for Holland House and Holland Park. His ambition is to rebuild Holland House to accommodate his 'social enterprise'. The Council have informed him that this is not feasible as Safestay has a 50-year lease of the East Wing, an Act

or part-funded by The Friends. It remains to be seen whether Park Management have sufficient resource to progress these projects. New 'wave' benches have been donated and are in front of Holland House, to replace those vandalised. A new guide to the Kyoto Garden has been written and awaits design; the

Holland Park guidebook has sold out and been reprinted, as has *The Families of Holland House*.

The Friends & Neighbours local discount scheme, aimed at increasing member numbers and at building a community of interest around Holland Park, has been welcomed by members and participating retailers.



New wave bench

of Parliament restricts usage of the site, Opera Holland Park will continue to lease the site annually and physical practicalities make rebuilding highly problematic.

A proposal for surface water drainage of the northern part of the park has been proposed, using 'natural' ditches and structures to control water flow. While the Friends support the concept in principle, they have registered a strong objection to any hard landscaping or activity facilities in the tranquil woodland areas. A revised proposal is awaited.

The Candy Brothers have registered an appeal against RBK&C's decision to refuse planning permission for demolishing and rebuilding Dukes Lodge, which is immediately adjacent to the north-east of Holland Park.

Park Management have agreed to projects which could be funded

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The bust pictured here is of Napoleon by Antonio Canova, and can be seen impressively displayed until 16 August at the entry to Room 90 of the British Museum. There it forms an introduction to an exhibition of 'Prints and Propaganda', caricatures from contemporary supporters and opponents of Bonaparte. The exhibition is witty and instructive, well worth visiting for its own sake. We are featuring the bust here because for many years it stood in the Napoleon Garden, now more commonly called the Dahlia Garden, in Holland Park, until it was removed for safe keeping at the beginning of World War II. Your late chairman, Christopher Wood, sought to locate it in the 1990s but it appeared to have vanished until it was lent to the British Museum for the exhibition. We are assured that its permanent home is still with the Ilchester family. The snuffbox pictured here is on display in the same exhibition.

We are reprinting here an article by Christopher Wood that appeared in the winter 1995 newsletter:

The position of the left-leaning aristocrat was as anomalous in Lord and Lady Holland's day as it is in ours. The Hollands' support for Napoleon is in some ways analogous to the starry-eyed, fellow-travelling views long held of Stalin, but the

general acquiescence in the Hollands' support for Napoleon throughout the Napoleonic wars does seem odd to our own censorious age. However this may be, one of Napoleon's generals, Sébastiani; Napoleon's aide-de-camp, the Count de Aahault; the Duke of Wellington himself and *his* aide-de-camp, Colonel Cradock, were all at one time or another happy to be guests at Holland House after Napoleon's death.

Why the Hollands should have been so enamoured of Napoleon is not certain, although they did meet him in Paris during the Peace of Amiens in 1801 when Lady Holland found his voice 'so melodious, no heart can resist'. Derek Hudson writes in his book *Holland House in Kensington* 'if it is not Napoleon's melodious voice, it is Hitler's wonderful eyes'. Both men were renowned for their personal magnetism.

What is certain is that Napoleon had every reason to be grateful to the Hollands. *The Courier* reported on 11 April 1814 that 'Bonaparte has renounced the thrones of France and Italy, and retires upon an annual allowance to some remote part, the Isle of Elba, we believe, to pass the remainder of his days'. Three days later it reported, 'Lord and Lady Holland have it in contemplation to... proceed to France'. Subsequent reports in *The Courier* ran as follows:

18 October 1814. 'Though the residence of Napoleon has been fixed at Elba by a treaty signed between the allies, it is reported at [The Congress of] Vienna that this arrangement is only to be considered as provisional, and that the



Bust of Napoleon by Antonio Canova

Congress will decide definitively the future residence of the Ex-Emperor’.

29 November. ‘Buonaparte is about remove [sic] or to be removed from Elba, but whither is not known’.

18 January 1815. ‘There is talk of conveying Buonaparte to Scotland where an estate will be assigned for his residence, and the same annual sum be paid him as is fixed by the Treaty of Fontainebleau’.

24 January. ‘The Vienna politicians express a strong wish that Buonaparte may be immediately removed to a more remote residence’.

About this time, Napoleon’s naïve gaoler, Colonel Campbell, received a visit from the perhaps less naïve Lady Holland. She persuaded him to allow Napoleon to receive some journals of the day so as to while away his time in captivity. Among these – surprise, surprise – were copies of *The Courier*. Shortly thereafter *The Courier* resorted to capitals in an era before headlines had been thought of:

10 March 1815.

‘MOST IMPORTANT NEWS. LANDING OF BUONAPARTE IN FRANCE’.

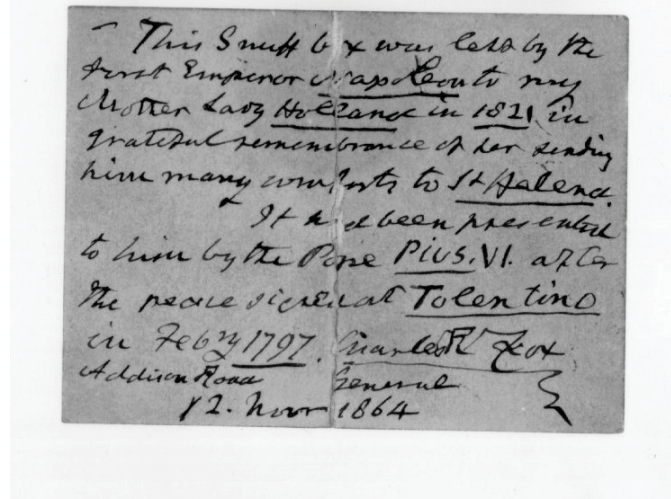
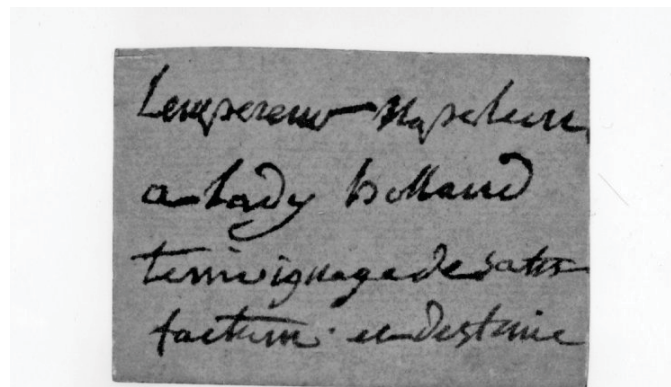
11 March. ‘The important intelligence from France yesterday, like AARON’S rod, swallowed up all other considerations. It burst upon the public like a clap of thunder. Colonel Campbell was at the time, we hear, in one of the little islands off the coast’. As Napoleon might have said, ‘What would you?’

The less-than-total war which the allies waged against Napoleon is also

illustrated by the fact that the Hollands were jaunting on the continent from before Elba to after Waterloo with a retinue of fifteen including a cook and a confectioner. They were at Aschaffenburg when the news of Waterloo reached them, and wept to hear it. It is a sobering thought that Waterloo’s many dead may have had Lady Holland’s infatuated interference to thank for their demise.



Napoleon’s snuffbox



Notes written by Napoleon and Charles Fox

Still pursuing their hero-worship, Lord Holland entered a Protest in the *Journal of the House of Lords* objecting to the decision to send Napoleon to St Helena. ‘To consign to distant exile... a captive chief... is unworthy of the magnanimity of a great country’. (Napoleon himself had nurtured daydreams of being allowed to live incognito as an English country gentleman under the name of Colonel Muiron who had saved his life at the cost of his own at Areola. A fond hope indeed.) After this Protest failed the Hollands dined his gaoler-to-be, Sir Hudson Lowe, no less than eight times before he took up his appointment on St Helena. Once there, he permitted Lady Holland to send Napoleon a total of 475 books and some much appreciated plum jam, but there was never a chance that he would forget his duties as a gaoler; this, after all, of a man who would have been shot for treason had he been handed over to the Bourbons. When, therefore, Sir Hudson Lowe called at Holland House after Napoleon’s death to give an account of it, he was denied admittance, and subsequently received a letter ‘indicating

(continued on page 8)

the undesirability of any personal interview'. No Colonel Campbell, he.

Our illustration is of a blue enamel and wrought-gold snuffbox with an agate cameo set in its lid. This shows a faun riding on a goat which is nibbling at some grapes on a vine stalk. The cameo had been given by Pope Pius VI to Napoleon at the Treaty of Tolentino in 1797, and, on his death, the snuffbox was found to have in it a piece cut out of a seven-of-diamonds playing-card. On the back was written: 'Lempereur Napoleon a Lady Holland – temoinage de satisfaction et destime', all, as shown here, without accents or apostrophes*. The box was originally made by A.-J.-M. Vachette of Paris (1797-1809) for Etienne Nitot et Fils. The workmanship is exquisite, showing vine-leaves, clusters of grapes, pan-pipes and a goblet, all in tiny detail. The bright blue and gold glitters as brightly as the day it was made.

This then is the background to the 'Napoleon Garden' in Holland Park today, a garden where once stood a bust of the Emperor himself by Canova with an inscription from Homer's

Odyssey said to have been translated by Lord Holland as: 'He is not dead, he breathes the air / in lands beyond the deep; / some distant sea-girt island where / harsh men the hero keep'. Whatever the rights and wrongs of these 'old, unhappy, far-off things and battles long ago', one can but admire the pertinacity with which the Hollands upheld their opinions – and envy the self-confident and tolerant society of their day which allowed them to do so.

* The placard in the museum, however, quotes the message with the accents and apostrophes. When chided for inaccuracy, the curator said that so many Francophile orthographers had taken her to task for omitting them ('Really! Even in this day and age, one would have thought that the British Museum at least might have been literate enough to etc. etc. etc.') that she had had them put in (although wrongly) so as to give herself a quiet life, and save wearisome correspondence.

All illustrations reproduced by kind permission of the British Museum. The original article had a black-and-white image of the snuffbox.

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On 18 April we were delighted once again to welcome to the Orangery the two leading lights of the Russian Virtuosi of Europe, Natalia Lomeiko (violin) and her husband Yuri Zhislin (violin and viola), both professors at The Royal College of Music. The programme was original with a strong pedagogic emphasis.

We started with Mozart's *Duo for Violin and Viola* in B-flat major, K424, This was the second of two duos which Mozart composed in 1783 to complete Michael Haydn's set of six for Archbishop Colloredo of Salzburg. The set was presented as all Haydn's, and the Archbishop did not detect Mozart's workmanship. The duo is in three movements of which the third is a set of variations on an original theme, but the skilfulness of the composition is such that, although there are only two instruments, it gives the same sort of impression as a string quartet.

The second work was an arrangement for two violins by Russian violinist L.Chistiakov of a selection of pieces from

Tchaikovsky's *Children's Album*: 24 piano pieces written to be played by children. The pieces are very short and have a wide variety of themes: from toys to dances to marches to charming folksongs.

The final work was a selection of Bartok's *44 Duos for Two Violins*. These were composed in 1931 for Erich Doefflein, a German violinist and teacher, as pieces to be played by students. The work is divided into four books, each progressively more difficult to play. All are based on folk music from many Eastern European countries including Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Ukraine, and one has Arab origins.

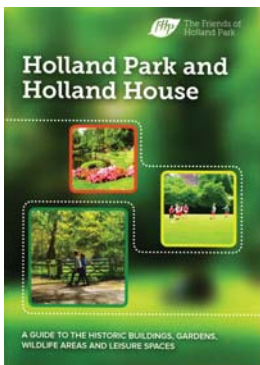
All three pieces were stimulating, had great variety and were so brilliantly played that one did not appreciate fully the complexity of the pieces. It was a fascinating and most enjoyable evening, and we look forward to welcoming the Russian Virtuosi again.

George Law

News Bites

Orangery bookings

In the first issue of The Friends' Guide to Holland Park we gave the contact details for booking events in The Orangery. Arrangements have changed and bookings should now be made on 020 7361 2220 or orangerybookings@rbkc.gov.uk. We have corrected




this in the reprint of the guide. Please make a note in your guide if you have one. If you don't yet have this useful little booklet, you can buy one for £2 from The Friends secretary, Rhoddy Wood on 020 7602 0304 or rhoddy.wood@virgin.net.

Holland Park bees

Goodbye and thank you to Des O'Grady who stepped into the breach to work as a volunteer beekeeper when the Head of Parks retired last year. The bees are now looked after by the London Beekeepers' Association who will also teach beecraft.

Cows


We hear that Longhorn cows will be back in the Arboretum and Oak Enclosure later this month or early July. Keep a look out for them.



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The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition received another wonderful response this spring. Attendance was up, and sales of exhibitors' artworks were on a par with last year: a very enjoyable and successful exhibition. I felt the standard and quality of the artwork was incredibly high; this view was supported by artists, Friends, visitors and by our long-standing judge, Isabel Langtry. The exhibition was again superbly hung by Alison Beckett who was assisted by Charles Bauccio and Graham Franklin. Thank you all once again.



The 2015 Art Exhibition

After our oversubscribed private view last year we decided to hold two this year. Unfortunately there was a problem with the post office, and the majority of artists did not get their tickets until they delivered their paintings to the Orangery on the morning of the private view. This mishap did not stop two highly successful private views, and from the feedback we have received, the artists and their guests were happy with the results. We will continue with this format.

Unfortunately I had to return to Australia after the opening, leaving my wife Sandra and daughter Alex to administer the exhibition with the help of the trustees and stewards. An

enormous thankyou to you all.

Again we were sponsored by Killik & Co., the long-established investment and wealth advisors located at 281 Kensington High Street, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Julian Chester and his team for their ongoing support.

This year our feature artist was the late Marika Eversfield who had the remarkable record of exhibiting at every single Friends art exhibition

since its establishment 33 years ago.

The proceeds from the sale of her artworks will go to Bel Canto in Barga International Singing Festival in Tuscany which Marika supported. The Friends who attended the two previews were treated to a performance by soprano Miss Sally Li. Thank you to Marika's family, Carolyn and Geoffrey Marks, for organising the recital.

Once again we had generous support from local restaurants and businesses for the raffle, proceeds all going to the Friends. Thank you to all the artists: without your support there is no exhibition; to Joy Puritz for her contribution year after year of putting together the catalogue; and the stewards and trustees. We look forward to doing it all again next year.

Gordon French

The Judging Experience 2015

My walk into the park was an inspiration: to walk and then arrive at an exhibition of art is my idea of a perfect evening. The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition 2015 in the Orangery showed a range of diverse artworks, with sculpture, applied art and paintings of all types, alongside photographs, prints and drawings beautifully displayed by the hard-working hanging team who make the viewing of the work a pleasure.

In order to continue encouraging such a broad range of submissions I am delighted that Gordon French has accepted my offer of a new, yearly prize: The Hampstead School of Art Prize for Applied Art. Each year the prize-winner will receive a term of an art course of their choice, at the school. This prize joins the Sir Hugh Casson Prize for Drawing, new last year and awarded posthumously by Sir Hugh's daughters, he having

been a former president of The Friends.

I enjoy looking through the browsers which are always full of visual treats, many reasonably priced, and if you bought a piece, well done: your contribution is extremely important in supporting Holland Park and in encouraging the artists.

Many artists received a special mention from me at the private view and I congratulate you all again for submitting work, contributing to an excellent exhibition and supporting an event that makes such a valuable contribution to the art world and our communities.

*Isabel H. Langtry,
Art Judge and Principal of Hampstead School of Art*



Works arranged for hanging

Paintings of bees and of baby elephants, classical portraits and rain-lashed landscapes were among a spectacular and inspired variety of works which filled the Orangery to overflowing in the annual Art Exhibition this spring.

Wild creatures were especially abundant, most notably the bronze goats of 3-D-prize-winner Barbara Foster, leaping and dancing in magical fashion [see photo bottom right]. Simon Taylor's terracotta plates, bearing motifs of frogs, birds and bees, were brimming with fun, and Tania Beaumont produced a magnificent mixed-media interpretation of the workings of a hive. Patricia Morrison captured the gentleness of elephants in her watercolour of a mother and baby, while Amanda Mann created a joyful mixed-media picture of hens that could almost be heard clucking. Among other stars were Jennifer Bush's parrot Kiku in pastel, and a hawk which featured in Lilian Schayek's watercolour of a Japanese New Year fantasy dream meant to bring good luck. An affinity with cats was unmistakable in Bob Barling's delightful gouache portrait of a father and son. Likewise Masako Jikihara showed her understanding of feline thinking in a wonderful colour etching of a cat puzzling over its shadow.

The weather proved a great inspiration for Anne Musso in her paintings of Holland Park, on the one hand with a riot of pink flowers in glorious sunshine, and then with trees bending in driving rain. Black and white trunks of birch trees were the basis for a striking composition in acrylic by Shohre Vakili. But it was a subtle light glimpsed through the trees which captivated Iwona Behar and won her The Prize for Artistic Excellence with her delicate depiction in pastel. A resounding

image of waves breaking against rocks was recreated by Noreen Smalley in pastel, and Joanna Irvin captured the wonder of the Isles of Scilly and the romance of the shoreline in two beautiful aquatint etchings. Hazel Fennell's highly accomplished and deceptively simple blue and white abstract, meanwhile, made a stunning contrast.

A classical portrait of St Benedict by Anna Jones, drawn in charcoal with an amazing luminosity, won the Sir Hugh Casson Prize for Drawing. Patrick and Eugenia Killery both showed their talent for portraiture in oil, as did Danielle Sacher. However, Marek Jakubowski's double portrait was the most poignant: a black-and-white photograph of two young children on their first date. John Schettrumpf also brought a smile both with his mechanical man in aluminium sheet and wood who was 'pondering', and with his clever picture comprising a place setting of a broken cup and plate stuck on board, and the idea that there was no dish of the day left except 'crackling'.

A photograph in colour of Holland House through an archway won The Spirit of Holland Park Prize for Nadhira Benaissa [see p. 3], while Dmytro Dobrovolskyi chose oil to depict the Ice House and its surrounding flower beds with exquisite intricacy. But the most glorious celebration of colour of all was Renate Ober's mixed-media picture of a Japanese fan amidst a wealth of flowers.

Alison Beckett



Sandra French

Master hanger Alison Beckett



Sandra French

Private view



Joy Puritz

The exhibition reflected

In the Orangery on 24 February the Director of the Design Museum, Deyan Sudjic, gave an interesting talk with beautiful illustrations, partly about the history of the museum but also describing its proposed layout in its new home, the old Commonwealth Institute building in Holland Park. In his introduction Mr Sudjic said that the success of the new location depended on warm relations with the museum's neighbours. Amen to that; in fact, most people seem to be more than happy to gain such a wonderful asset in the borough. Mr Sudjic has a strong affinity with our neck of the woods: he was born in St Mary Abbots Hospital in Marloes Road; for his first three years he lived in Oakwood Court and was often wheeled around Holland Park in his pram. He trained as an architect but felt it his duty never to build anything due to his 'incompetence and lack of patience'; so he went into architectural journalism.

The forerunner of the Design Museum was the Boilerhouse set up by designer Sir Terence Conran in the Victoria and Albert Museum 30 years ago. Apart from the fact that some of the V&A curators were a little shocked by some of the exhibits, the Boilerhouse outgrew its basement and moved, in 1989, to a converted banana warehouse in London's Shad Thames. It was thought that Prince Charles might open the museum, but when he was shown a model of the building he asked: 'Does it have to have a flat roof?' Mrs Thatcher was asked to open it instead. The list of designers and architects celebrated there is impressive, including Luigi Colani, Ettore Sottsass, Sir Terence Conran, Zaha Hadid and Tim Walker. It has launched careers and established reputations, which it will surely continue to do. Among others there have been exhibitions of cars, fashion, shoe design and, during the 2012 Olympics, there was one entitled 'Design to Win' featuring such objects as racing cars and yachts. It was surprising to hear that the museum is a private charity needing £5 million a year but only receiving £400,000 from the Government. Now, with its 240,000 visitors a year, it has



Alex Morris Visualisation

Part of the planned ground floor

outgrown its warehouse building; the Commonwealth Institute building will offer three times the space, and aims to welcome half a million visitors per annum. It is a Grade-2-listed building with a unique hyperbolic paraboloid roof: 'The geometry is strong,' Mr Sudjic told us. It was not universally acclaimed. When the Queen opened it in 1962 she commented: 'This is not a good year for architecture.'

The sum of £45 million had to be raised to transform the building. The copper on the roof had to be renewed; and the sophisticated new pale-blue glass skin on the sides means that the structure's original appearance will be retained. The floors had been so tightly designed, with no possibility of modification, that they all had to be taken out. The new floors are at the same level as the originals. The top will house the permanent collection, changing every five years, a members' room, an events space and a restaurant (closing at 11 p.m.); on the first floor there will be a reference library, a learning centre and offices; the ground floor will have the largest gallery, used for temporary exhibitions; some of the latter will also be displayed on the lower ground floor where there will also be an auditorium (for talks and seminars), shops and a café. Entry will be free. The museum will in part use volunteers. Other museums such as the Science Museum will be asked to lend objects for display. Mr Sudjic pointed out that we were in a new industrial revolution: a digital one; design was changing at an unprecedented rate: one only had to look at how the smartphone was all but replacing books, maps and cameras.

At the time of this talk the residential development flanking the building was far advanced, but the museum had not yet moved into the building to begin the fitting out; however, it is scheduled to open to the public before the end of 2016, and we feel sure that there will be a lot for local residents to enjoy.

Joy Puritz

Notecards and Postcards



*Holland House through the Trees,
by Clare Weatherill*

view of 'Holland House through the Trees' which we had used in two sizes as a Christmas card last year. So we ordered some

'I can't find your notecards' said one of our members after searching our art exhibition. We thought the Orangery was full of notecards but enquiry revealed

that our member meant the not-very-wintery

especially for her in the smaller size (4.75" x 6.75") without a greeting, and while we were at it got some extra, thinking others might like them too. So they are on our order form together with packs of 5 black/white postcards of the north face of Holland House as it was in the nineteenth century, or with 3 cards of the north face plus two of the gilt drawing room. These are also being sold by our good friends in the Park Office. Also there, as large notecards, are several different very colourful views of Holland Park from paintings by Dmytro Dobrovolskyi. These sold well at the art exhibition and we thought that you might like another chance to buy them. Do look into the Park Office to see them all.

The great families of Holland House took pride in planting unusual and interesting trees and shrubs in the grounds. Back as far as 1611, John Tradescant was given £38 to bring back plants from Europe for Sir Walter Cope. By 1746, Henry Fox was planting 'exotic' trees and, with expert advice from Charles Hamilton of Painshill, he became a highly knowledgeable plantsman and an early experimenter with shrubberies. The 5th Earl of Ilchester continued the tradition, and his head gardener, Charles Dixon, published a list of trees and shrubs in Holland Park which can be found today at the RHS Linley Library in London. Today we can still boast some rare plants, but we are sad to see just how many noteworthy specimens we have lost over the past few years. Do you recognise these four plants in the park:

Rhaphiolepis x delacourii

A neat dome-shaped evergreen shrub with glossy leaves and rosy-pink upright flower heads in spring. Although said to be a tender plant, this example has thrived in the border to the west of the Toddlers' Playground.



Rhaphiolepis x delacourii

Oemleria cerasiformis (Oso Berry)

This deciduous shrub forms a thicket of erect stems ideal for the hedge it forms along the west fence of the D-Garden just north of the gate to Abbotsbury Road. Pendant greenish-white flowers attract passers-by with their fragrance in February or March. Male and female flowers are found on separate plants and, as I have never noticed fruit on our hedge, I reckon our hedge is a boy.



Oemleria cerasiformis

Dipelta yunnanensis

You could walk past this shrub almost all year without noticing it, but come May it's a showstopper with its clusters of trumpet-shaped flowers. Each creamy trumpet has a startling orange

throat to attract pollinators. This shrub is a native of China and is rarely seen, not because it is tender but because it is notoriously difficult to propagate and therefore rarely found in nurseries. Look out for it next to the little twisted hazel by the south fence of the Dipelta Enclosure, opposite the north wall of the youth hostel.



Dipelta yunnanensis

Diervilla sessilifolia

A small compact and rounded shrub approximately one metre high, which obviously likes its open sunny position at the top of the steps from the Fukushima to the Kyoto Garden. In fact there are two of them, one on either side of the path. The flowers have five petals, four of them sulphur yellow and the fifth is deep yellow. The leaves are paired, turning bronze before they drop in autumn. It is native to North America.

The Friends want to make sure we not only value the interesting and unusual plants already in our park, but that we continue the tradition of planting exotic surprises among the natives.



Diervilla sessilifolia

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell



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



*The cover photo of sunbathers
by the Ice House
was taken by your editor in 2012*

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

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:

***Aida* by Verdi July 1, 4, 8, 10, 16, 19 (matinée 2pm), 21, 24 7.30pm**

***Lakmé* by Delibes July 9, 11, 15, 18, 23, 27 (The Christine Collins Young Artists performance), 29, 31 7.30pm**

***L'amore dei tre re* by Montemezzi July 22, 25, 28, 30, August 1 8pm**

All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. The Friends' Bird and Nature Walks (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 new 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 £.

Task Force 4 Nature volunteer days (for adults) are every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3.30pm (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).

Sat 4 July	BNW	
Wed 8 July	ES. Parakeet Walk and Talk (sponsored). Must book.	7-8.30pm
Sat 11 July	ES. Bumblebee Walk and Talk (sponsored). Must book.	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 14 July	Pimm's in the Park , in the Orangery, £17.	6-8pm
Wed 15 July	ES. Summer Tree Walk: the basics. Must book.	6.30-8pm
Sat 18 July	ES. Busy Bees Open Day. Drop in at the Ecology Centre.	2-6pm
Mon 27 July	ES. Summer holiday children's activities. Must book. £	
– Fri 28 Aug		
Thur 30 July	ES. Stag Beetle Talk (sponsored). Must book.	6.30-8pm
Sat 1 Aug	BNW	
Sat 15 Aug	ES. Open Day: Dragonflies. Drop in at the wildlife area.	2-6pm
Fri 28 Aug	ES. Children's Night Safari in Holland Park. Must book. £	7- 9pm
Sat 5 Sept	BNW	
Sat 5 Sept	ES. Bird-Ringing Demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at the wildlife area.	7-11am
Sat 19 Sept	ES. Flora and Folklore Walk (sponsored). Must book.	2-4pm
Sat 3 Oct	BNW	
Sat 3 Oct	ES. Open Day: Pond Survey. Drop in at the wildlife area.	12 noon-4pm
Sat 17 Oct	Autumn Tree Walk with Alan Harrington. Meet by the Stable Yard.	11am-1pm
Sat 17 Oct	ES. Apple Pressing Open Day. Drop in at the Ecology Centre.	12 noon-4pm
Sat 24 Oct	ES. Fungi Foray (sponsored). Must book.	2-4pm
26 – 30 Oct	ES. Half-term holiday children's activities. Must book. £	
Tues 27 Oct	The Beauty and Wonder of Trees (see p.3), in the Orangery, £15	7pm
Fri 30 Oct	ES. Children's Night Safari in Holland Park. Must book. £	4.30-6.30pm

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