



The Friends of Holland Park
Autumn 2025



The Friends of
Holland Park

Your Committee

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Projects Isabelle Beaumont

Governance Nigel Brockmann

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Database Manager Graham Franklin

Data & Technology Phillip Fei Hou

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Our website address: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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**The Friends would like to thank RBKC City Living/Local life
for the generous funding of this newsletter.**

Sunday, 7 December in the Holland Park Orangery. 7.00pm

People who come to our concert say it is different to other seasonal concerts and that 'it is certainly better!' We think that is because the mix of music is more varied and the programme includes readings, some of which will amuse us and make us laugh.



of is the joyous voices of the choir ringing out in the beautiful Orangery, lively readings and some carols for all to sing.

We are delighted that Douglas Somers-Lee will entertain us with his Ariel Consort of London again this year. Douglas has sung in The Friends Christmas concert for many years so he knows us well and knows just what we like for our very special end of year event. There will be many familiar faces in the choir.

Trustee, Nigel Brockmann, is in contact with Douglas and we will update you about the delights in the programme in November. One thing we can be sure

Whether you are a regular, if you haven't been to this event for a while, or haven't yet been, do please put the date in your diary. We can promise you a highly enjoyable evening. And please book your tickets early so that we can cater for all who come.

At the end of the concert, we will be treated to a glass or two of mulled wine and some tasty seasonal treats. Tickets, at £27, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or on the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Please note that this year's concert starts at 7.00pm.

Financial challenges for Holland Park

You may have seen in the news that the Council is facing significant financial challenges over the next few years as a result of changes to the way the Government funds local government. This means we are having to look at alternative ways of delivering services, what we can scale back, and new ways of generating income.

We have been looking at options for income generation in Holland Park that are appropriate and sensitive to the location and have the lowest impact on everyday park users while also generating sufficient income. One of the options being explored is an after-hours

winter event such as a light trail and winter market. We will be tendering for an operator this autumn with events likely to begin in winter 2026 and will provide more detail once a plan has been drawn up. Alongside this we are also looking at other high-income, low-impact opportunities to support the service. I understand that events in the park may not be welcome news but I would like to reassure you that we are taking the time to plan this carefully and will work with The Friends of Holland Park throughout to make sure we get this right.

*By Councillor Emma Will,
Lead Member for Property, Parks and Leisure*

Holland Ward Councillor appointed Deputy Mayor

The RBKC 'mayor-making' ceremony was held in a full Council meeting at the Town Hall on 21 May. Cllr. Tom Bennett was elected as the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea for the Council Year 2025/26. He made and signed the statutory declaration of acceptance and was invested with the Chain and Badge of Office. The new Mayor then appointed our own Holland Ward Councillor, Aarien Areti, as Deputy Mayor. Aarien proceeded to address Full Council. The Large Hall was full, as Councillors gave speeches and guests from the wards watched the spectacle.

*Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Areti
in his robes of office.*



Drinking fountain in the Café Yard

The Friends donated this fountain in 1990 and the plumbing and structure have been carefully maintained in recent years by the Parks Small Works Team aka Scott and Louis. The glazing on the ceramic bowls is now worn and the units badly need replacing. Trustee, Isabelle Beaumont, has been working with Parks Management, Scott and Louis to find the best solution. It is likely that one ceramic bowl will be replaced like for like and the other will be replaced by a stainless-steel spout suitable for filling water bottles. The stone pillar will be cleaned as part of this upgrade. The cost will be funded by The Friends.



Drinking fountain in Café Yard

birds have persisted wherever there is a minute space. We hope that the additional work done to fill those spaces will finally clear pigeons, and their messy guano, from around the seating in that area.

Holland Park toilets

Quite a few of our members have mentioned their dissatisfaction with elements of the recently relocated and upgraded toilets on the east side of the Stable Yard. Mainly this relates to the infelicitous siting of the doors into the Ladies and Gents. The view has been expressed that the interiors need a deep clean. This was one of the subjects most often raised by members at our April 2025 AGM and we recommended that those with comments should fill in the RBKC Customer Comment Card available in the Stable Yard park office. It seems that none of the people who feel strongly about the need for improvement filled in the form, so the council will be unaware of the problems. If you have a comment about the toilets, please fill in a hard copy of the comment form, or comment on the RBKC website: www.rbkc.gov.uk/contact-us/report-problem/report-problem-park, or scan the QR code below.

Arcade west of the Café Yard

Some years ago, work was carried out to the walls and ceiling of the arcade that runs in front of the Café and continues along the west side of the Café Yard. The electric wiring was tidied up and the lighting repaired. The work was excellent but, for some reason, the plaster under the west arcade was troublesome and needed more attention. While waiting for the plaster to dry, the wall suffered minor vandalism and the replacement plaster has taken a long time to dry out again. It is unsightly and we understand it will now be painted and brought up to the standard of the rest of the Café Yard arcade. Pigeons are a problem round any outdoor café and, despite deterrent spikes being placed where the pigeons chose to nest and on places where they perched, the



Mid stage repairs under west arcade.



Sun Trap wall

In the summer newsletter we mentioned that the eastern part of the Sun Trap Garden had been fenced off for safety reasons. Options for strengthening the wall have been discussed, the most interesting proposal being to create a supportive terraced wall. The steps of the terrace will provide seats for park visitors to relax and enjoy a view of the Sun Trap Garden. The cost is little different to a straightforward wall replacement, but has the advantage of additional seating and of not having to remove any trees for the work to be done. We await the result of the Section 106 funding application.



Sun Trap Garden when Tonda sculpture was first installed

Joy Puritz has stepped down as a trustee

Joy has the right name as she is joyful by nature. Most of you know her as she has been a member since the 1980s and a trustee for over 30 years.

Her official role was 'editor', which meant she edited the newsletter and wrote committee meeting minutes.

She did much more than that and her contributions included collating the annual Art Exhibition catalogue, stewarding at the exhibition, filling the bird feeders in the park and sometimes led the nature walks run by The Friends. She was particularly interested in the park's birds and she often surprised us by chirping up with an imitation of a bird's call. She comes from a family immersed in serious music and played a big role until a couple of years ago in working with the Tallis Chamber Choir to plan our Christmas Concert. On most occasions she took part with a joyous chuckle as she read a particularly amusing piece.

She has always been, and still is, a busy person with lots of friends and hobbies and somehow found time to write, or co-write three biographies, still on sale via Amazon. This fitted into her career working for an independent bookshop specialising in foreign

language books, where her fluency in German came in handy. She has a lovely voice, put to good use in the church choir.

This May, Joy decided that she had done her bit and thought it time to retire as a trustee, particularly as

she had recently broken her foot and was unable to charge about on her trusty bicycle as she was accustomed to doing. That didn't stop her hobbling into the AGM this April with a look of determination on her face. Fortunately, she is now fit enough to re-join her friends on rambles in the country.

We owe Joy heartfelt thanks for her many, many years of

loyal service to The Friends and I am sure you would want to join the trustees in thanking her for her impressive contribution.

She is of course still a member and is a regular at our events, which she joins with her customary enthusiasm and mischievous sense of humour. When you see her, please remember to say how much we all appreciate the ways she has helped The Friends over three decades.

Jennie Kettlewell



Joy representing The Friends, with Nigel Brockmann, on our event stall

The mixed deciduous woodland in Holland Park covers 8 hectares, about 36% of the park. It represents a rare 'priority' habitat in central London and a most precious resource, both in terms of the wildlife it supports, but also through its vital role providing 'ecosystem services', such as helping to regulate the climate and alleviate flooding, issues that impact us all.



Holland Park Wood.

Holland Park woodland is managed by the Ecology Service, working closely with the Parks and Arboricultural teams, as well as idverde and our conservation volunteers. The 5-year woodland management plan that we work to sets out our vision to secure the long-term future of the Holland Park woodland, protecting and enhancing biodiversity to support a tranquil and natural space that everyone can feel connected to and will benefit from.

As custodians, we also have a duty to work to mitigate the impacts of climate change to ensure the sustainability of the woodland for future generations. Over the last two years, conservation volunteers have been working to this brief, and you may have noticed some changes to how the woodland looks as a result.



Corporate volunteers planting hedging.

A healthy mixed deciduous woodland is characterised by a multi-layered structure, with a canopy formed of the largest trees, such as Oak, Horse Chestnut and Beech, an understory layer composed of shorter trees or shrubs such as Holly, Alder, Hazel and Hawthorn, and a ground layer of herbaceous plants, fungi, mosses, lichen, dead wood and other decaying organic matter. A balance is needed between all the layers, with additional features like glades and woodland edges providing opportunities for light to reach the lower levels, allowing them to flourish. The more diverse the structure, the more wildlife the woods can support.



New dead hedge habitat for wildlife.

Holland Park woods contain a mix of trees but are dominated by Holly that has been allowed to grow and spread so that in several areas it now forms a monoculture that blocks much of the light from reaching the woodland floor. There is also an abundance of Ivy, growing both up the trees (which doesn't harm the trees) and along the ground, where it outcompetes other native plants. Dead wood, either from fallen branches or felled trees, is generally left where it falls. Conservation volunteers, led by idverde Community and Training Manager Gerry Kelsey, have been working systematically through the woodland compartments, clearing the ground ivy, thinning self-seeded saplings, and consolidating deadwood into new dead hedge habitat. This work has opened up glades, and an abundance of ground flora, including Foxgloves and Red Campion, have sprung up from the seed bed now that they have room to grow.

In Winter 2023/24, thanks to funding from The Friends of Holland Park, 2,000 mixed native hedging whips were planted around the woodland enclosures, providing new shrub-layer habitat to support invertebrates, birds and small mammals. This Autumn we are planning to remove a large

proportion of the Holly in the Wildlife Area, our main outdoor teaching space. Visually, this will be a dramatic change, but will provide much needed space to introduce new tree and shrub species, creating the structural and species diversity that is essential for the woodland to thrive in our changing climate.

Climate change is predicted to bring more frequent and severe summer droughts interspersed with flash flooding events, which, mixed with London clay soil, will stress our woodlands. Stressed trees are more susceptible to pests and diseases, which are also set to increase in abundance and type with the warmer temperatures. The best action we can take now to future-proof the woods is ensuring a wide mix of species and age structure of planting to increase resilience.

Many of the woodland compartments will focus on native, or near-native species, but there are likely to be shifts in the distribution of our native species



Red Campion reappears after clearance.

across the UK, and we must plant in anticipation of the predicted climate. As the woodland is already home to the arboretum collection with a legacy of introducing exotic specimen trees to the park, we will also be looking to increase non-native species where appropriate. This will further strengthen resilience through diversity and provide a wider pool of species that can be chosen from with reference to their likely contribution to urban cooling and drought resilience. Introduction of new trees, shrubs and hedging will be done gradually across the park, ensuring that we can keep on top of the management required for plants to establish, and work flexibly to

respond to the most recent research, advice and species availability from experts in the field. With careful consideration and planning for the future, we can ensure that Holland Park woodland continues to have a significant role in urban nature recovery and climate mitigation for generations to come.

Alice Laughton, head of the RBKC Ecology Service

The Friends support the important work being carried out to ensure we have thriving woodland habitats that can be enjoyed by us today and by future generations. It is good to note there is a clear woodland management strategy and we are fortunate to have the wide variety of flora and fauna that exists in the park.

Lime Hawk-moth

Clare, one of the education officers from the Ecology Service team, found a Lime Hawk-moth. Apparently, what you do if you want to study a moth specimen is put it in a small clear container and store it in the fridge. It doesn't harm the moth if only left for two or three days, but in fact calms it down. It is important not to touch the delicate wings because they are fragile and you might easily damage them.

Far from being harmed, Clare's captured moth laid eggs, which hatched into healthy caterpillars. She fed them (with lime leaves of course) and then set them free to eat their fill in the park, pupate and for a new generation of Lime Hawk-moths to emerge.

What a great maternity service for that unsuspecting moth!

*L-R: Lime tree caterpillar;
Lime-Hawk-moth on tree
near Holland Park.*



Last year we had two cards of which we pre-ordered supplies to help quick delivery of your orders. That worked well so this year we have again picked two designs. 'Arcade and Sundial', with its golden sky, also shows the small pine trees beyond the steps which were transplanted from the park's display at Chelsea Flower Show around the time of the millennium. We are repeating The Stable Yard, which was so popular last year. Both cards are by Terry McKivragan, who painted many of the earlier Holland Park cards.

The standard greeting on all Christmas cards is 'With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year', but you can choose to ask for them blank. We hold a supply of these cards with greetings in three options:

- Standard, 152 mm x 197 mm format at £7.25 for five.
- Smaller, 118 mm x 168 mm at £12.50 for ten.
- Mixed packs of ten designs of Holland Park from past years, at £6.50. These will be mostly the larger size and in three or four different designs.
- In addition, there is a range of 16 other Holland Park cards in the brochure enclosed with this newsletter.

These will be available from 1 November but please order as soon as possible so that the publisher can estimate in advance how many to print. We will keep some in stock, but delivery gets slower when more have to be printed, especially towards the end of the season.

To order, you can use the order form with this newsletter, or order from The Friends' website.

If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp), our delivery of Christmas cards is free. If your newsletter is delivered by post, we have to charge an additional £2.50 per ten cards, or a single pack of five large. Please note that sending the order to The Friends, instead of direct to Mountbatten, gets The Friends an extra discount, unless overprinting is required. If you do order direct, please remember to say which charity you would like Mountbatten

to make a donation to. Naturally we would hope it was The Friends, but you are free to choose any charity.

Rhoddy Wood



Christmas card designs: Arcade and Sundial (top), Stable Yard (above)

Snakes and Ladders game now only £12



Snakes and Ladders is a traditional game, but this version is based on Holland Park, with illustrations of familiar places, such as the Ilchester Gate, Sibirica Fountain and the Tonda sculpture.

The roll-up 'board' is wipeable and comes in a handy sleeve for storage. Inside the pack is a pouch containing four counters in different colours, a dice and instructions how to play. Suitable for two to four players.

This would make a great Christmas present for a family and it has been reduced to £12, due to a generous donation from Daisy Green towards the production cost. It is available from the Holland Park Office in the Stable Yard.

Board with counters and dice.

NEW! Sets of post cards showing the garden party paintings



The beautiful marouflage paintings, depict a garden party in Holland Park in the 1890s and are to be found under the arcade that links the Café Yard to the Orangery. The Friends commissioned artist, Mao Wen Biao, to paint the 11 scenes, which were installed in 1994/95. The paintings are oil on canvas and fixed to the walls, which means they are marouflages and not murals, which are paintings direct onto a wall.

Mao has recently retouched the surface of the paintings but more was needed for the two most easterly canvases to survive. Alvar Mailan from Richard Rogers Conservation meticulously peeled those two paintings off the wall and has carried out conservation on the back before mounting the canvas on a slim frame awaiting re-installation. They are currently in storage, where they will remain, until the Council repairs the roof of the arcade to prevent

water ingress. We have been waiting a long time for that.

To celebrate these paintings, we have produced sets of 11 post cards, each showing one of the marouflage subjects.



All 11 cards depicted on the index card.

We are grateful to Gilead Limor, designer of our newsletter, who took the photos and then 'improved' them so they look stunning on the cards. He donated his work without charge. We are also grateful to The Wheeler Hill Foundation who kindly agreed that their generous donation of £1,000 could be used towards the cost of

artwork and print. These donations allow us to offer each pack of 11 cards for only £6. You can buy on our website, from the park office in the Stable Yard or by completing the order form with this newsletter.

Andrew Lee studying to become a doctor

In 2020, during the Covid pandemic, a 17-year-old pupil of Westminster School spent his summer holiday litter-picking in Holland Park. Andrew Lee planned to study medicine and was scheduled to do a placement with St. Thomas' Hospital, but that couldn't happen because of the pandemic. Instead, he chose to raise money for St Thomas' by visiting the park for 30 days to help clear the litter left by increased crowds of people who visited the park while working from home. He exceeded his target, largely because of his well-written letters to councillors, council officers, The Friends and others, but also because he was organised and diligent. He took an interest



Andrew dressed in scrubs.

in the park's trees, talked to visitors and wrote a blog about the park. The Friends were asked to support his application to medical school with a letter describing what he had achieved.

We were delighted when he got back in touch with The Friends this summer and told us that he was awarded the first stage of his medical degree after three years of non-clinical study at Cambridge. He has finished the first of his three years of clinical study to complete his degree. He is enthusiastic and rightly proud of his chosen career and we

look forward to hearing from him again when we can address him as Dr Lee.

Hi there **kids!**

Page funded by

CityLiving
Local Life
Holland

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

Where do butterflies go in winter?



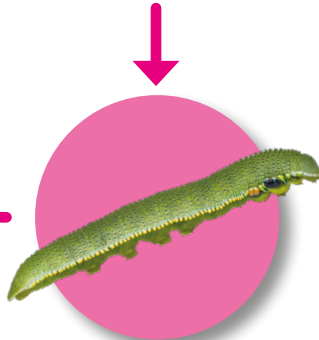
What's your story?

They don't go away but they change what they look like so you don't recognise them.



The caterpillar inside the chrysalis changes into a butterfly and emerges to fly in summer.

The butterfly lays eggs on a leaf.



A chrysalis is a protective cover made by the caterpillar to keep it safe when it sheds its skin.

The eggs hatch into caterpillars.

It is in summer that we enjoy beautiful butterflies flying from plant to plant, looking for somewhere to lay their eggs. When autumn and winter come, the butterfly has done its job and dies but the eggs and then the chrysalis stay on the plant leaves through the winter, but are not easy to see. Then a butterfly emerges and we can enjoy them again.

You can find this statue by the old wall in the Dutch Garden.

Statues are usually of a real person but no-one knows who this is. He looks very miserable so why don't you make up your own story about who he is and why he is sad.

If you want to tell us your story, please write it on a postcard, including your name and a contact number for an adult, such as your parent.

Address the postcard to The Friends of Holland park and leave it with the people in the park office. We will publish the best story in our newsletter.



"If you see someone without a smile, why not give them one of yours."



Have a go at colouring in our classy caterpillar. Use lots of colours to make it extra special.



It is easy to take how we experience a tree for granted. Some people experience them in different ways.

Some years ago, a man with no sight and his wife, with limited sight, visited 'The Friends' pop-up stall in Holland Park. He told me that trees were his favourite thing in the park and that he particularly liked listening to the sounds of trees. That gave us an idea. It took a long time to come to fruition and brought together three groups. Greg Packman runs tree walks when he can spare time from his day job as a tree officer for Royal Parks. Having been on several of his tree walks, I noticed how sensory he was with trees as he discussed the texture of leaves, of bark and the sounds of the breeze in the canopy. I asked if he was interested in leading a sensory walk and he said it was something he had always wanted to do. I had been put in touch with Kate Nash, who is the Health Promotion Coordinator at Age UK K&C and facilitator of the macular degeneration support group, and asked if her group would like to come and experience some of Holland Park's tree collection. She said that they would. The Friends were not the appropriate body to host the event but the Ecology team certainly was and Nature Wellbeing Officer, Rachel Harris, jumped at the opportunity.

Blue Badge Guided Tour for Open Age

On the 25th of June, a group from Open Age enjoyed a step-free tour in Holland Park to hear Blue Badge tour leader, Rowan Freeland, share stories of Holland House and its estate during World War II and how it survived. One of the group fascinated us as she could remember the times and events covered. Feedback from the group showed appreciation and included:

"Interesting hearing of Lord Ilchester's time at the House during and end of the war and of the association with Rosalin Cubitt, the mother of Queen Camilla."

"The measured pace, with regular stops for us to sit down."

"Great tour, very well presented and very interesting and informative."

"Regular 'seating stops' made the talk even more enjoyable in the warmth of the afternoon sun."

"An interesting and humorous tour through the old life style and more recent events within the grand house and grounds."

'Holland House – The Great Survivor' was a new subject and may become one of the tours open to the public in 2026.

The result of this cooperation was a Sensory Tree Walk on 27 May for an enthusiastic group from Age UK. It rained. It poured. But the group were not put off. We started in the nice, dry Ecology Centre where Greg gave his introduction and the participants responded enthusiastically with question after question. I thought we would never get out to experience the real thing. Eventually we did and walked hastily from the shelter of one tree to the next with Greg picking leaves for everyone to feel and telling us they were actually 'a green solar panel'. His tree stories were fascinating and we almost forgot the rain.

Finally, the group headed off to the Café where it was much appreciated that the kind staff had reserved a table. Feedback is that the event was very much enjoyed by all and they would like to visit again.

We hope this is the first of many tree walks for people who experience trees in different ways and we can all learn more about the feel and sound of these wonderful plants.

Jennie Kettlewell

Chelsea Open Air Nursery School

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Places available for September

- Places available for Rising 3's, 3 and 4 year olds
- 15 or 30 hour funded education and paid additional hours, term time only

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Email: info@coans.rbkc.sch.uk
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When Henry Edward Fox, the 4th Baron Holland, died in 1859, his wife was left with a problem.

He was always a sickly man, though constantly falling in love, usually with unsuitable women. He eventually took up a position as a diplomat and went to live in Florence. There he met Mary Augusta, daughter of the 8th Earl of Coventry. In 1833, he married her and it was a happy and successful marriage, though they had no children of their own. They adopted a daughter, whose parentage caused much speculation, and who later became Princess Marie Liechtenstein. Mary Augusta, known as 'Gussie', was a lively petite woman and a talented amateur artist.



Mary Augusta portrait by Frederick Watts.

the marouflage paintings. This would have been used to preserve the revelers' finery if the weather was inclement. The upper storey runs above the café. Both levels are flanked by walls ornamented by exquisite Florentine tiles, which have been conserved over the years with funding from The Friends. The walkways were built in two stages between 1851 and 1858. Not content with that, he started restorations of the house and had the formal garden to the west laid out in Italianate style, and it remains much as his original design.

Henry and Gussie continued the family tradition of entertaining guests from many different countries and walks of life. Their lavish dinners and large-scale

When they took up residence in Holland House, they (or, more likely, Henry) made significant improvements to both house and garden. In 1848 he relocated the main entrance from the south front to the east wing of the house, now the youth hostel. The area had previously been a bowling green and soil was removed to hollow out the space for the entrance. The soil was put to good use to build up the level of the terrace in front of the big house, where it had previously been a gradual slope.



The tiled upper walkway.

As another major undertaking, he commissioned a two-storey walkway from the house to the conservatory, now the Orangery, and the summer ballroom which is now occupied by Belvedere Restaurant. The lower walkway started in the basement of the big house and continued in front of what is now the café and past



Dutch garden in 1894, as laid out by the 4th Baron.

garden parties were held in the summer when they were in residence and the guest lists were eclectic in every sense. William Thackeray commented that, 'They like agreeable people and do not care for their rank and quartering, the house is open to all'.

Henry's perpetual wish to make improvements, and the couple's love of entertaining, cost them a great deal and their money began to run out. The estate had been mortgaged after the death of the 3rd Baron in 1840 and some of the estate (in the north next to what is now Holland Park Avenue) had been sold. Much of the land to the west was developed to raise income from leases. As a side thought, it is said that the kink in Addison Road by St Barnabus church was caused by having to skirt the old moats. Henry and Gussie's profligate

spending can only have made things worse so the building development on what had been pasture continued.

When Henry died, he was the last Lord Holland and, with his decease, the baronetcy ceased. No more Baron Hollands. She retired to her other house at St Anne's Hill, because Holland House had too many memories for her. By the mid-1860s, the social scene lured her back to Holland House where she once again spent the summer months. She had always been extravagant and the costly improvements to the estate and regular lavish entertaining had been a drain on the family purse. She found herself in a severe financial crisis and she continued to sell land. In 1861 she sold land to the London and North Western Railway Company for £7,860 to provide a new station and more track for the West London Railway. Despite the considerable sum, amounting to over £100,000, which she received from the sale of parts of her estate, Lady Holland was unable to settle any of the outstanding mortgages on her property or even keep pace with her expenditure.

An urgent solution was needed. It is well known that in 1874 she came to a deal with a relative of her husband, The Earl of Ilchester who was a direct descendant of



*Photo supposed to be
George Dixon Atkinson-Clark*

Stephen Fox, first Earl of Ilchester, the elder brother of the first Lord Holland. After a long negotiation, it was agreed that he would take the estate, which was subject to a mortgage debt of £49,000 and, in return, he would allow Lady Holland to live in Holland House for the rest of her life and granted her an annuity for life of £6,000. What is less well-known, but included in Lord Ilchester's book, is that she sought help from her niece's husband, Mr. George Dixon Atkinson-Clark of Belford Hall, Northumberland. He was a barrister and was placed in charge of the management of the house and grounds. He assisted Lady Holland until her death in 1889 and often

stayed in Holland House even when Lady Holland was away. She died on 20 September, while at the house and Lord Ilchester inherited the property. But that's another story.

What was intriguing to me, and a huge surprise when I reread Lord Ilchester's book, was to find the name Atkinson-Clark, which I immediately recognised. George Dixon Atkinson-Clark was the brother of my great grandfather. I had never known that I have a genuine, if distant, link to Holland House and its owners.

Jennie Kettlewell

Dutch Garden bedding

The summer bedding in the Dutch Garden has, quite rightly, received many compliments. Not only were the plants well chosen, but head gardener, Martin Moore, made sure the tips of all plants were pinched out. The result is robust and bushy plants with great flowers.



Dutch Garden summer bedding

Winter bedding will be planted in October. By its very nature, winter planting looks less colourful than the summer equivalent, but that doesn't mean it is less interesting.

Way back in our Winter 2023 issue, we wrote that the Dutch Garden box hedges that border the beds had been ravaged by the box tree caterpillar and was to be removed in favour of trials of a number of different species. The trial has gone well and most species have flourished. All except for

the *Ilex crenata* (Japanese Holly), which likes a lot of water. The result is that the *Ilex crenata* will be dug up and replaced with species that have proved more resilient.



Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Autumn 2025

Kensington Gardeners' Club

The club provides a programme of talks at St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, as well as garden visits. To book, email susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com.

Sat. 20 Sept., 2.30pm.

Club Meeting

Mark Wasilewski, Park Manager at the Royal Parks, will provide insight into 'The Queen's Garden.' ***Please note that this meeting will be held at St John the Baptist Church, Holland Road, Kensington, W14 8HA.*** Free to Kensington Gardeners' Club members and £5 for guests. Afternoon tea follows the meeting at modest cost.

Sat. 18 Oct., 2.30pm.

Club Meeting

Prize giving. Meet this year's winners, accompanied by slides. Q&A. Free to Kensington Gardeners' Club members and £5 for guests. Afternoon tea follows the meeting at modest cost.

Sat. 15 Nov., 2:30pm.

Club Meeting

Andrew Babicz, horticultural journalist, presents the Royal Botanical Garden Edinburgh. Free to Kensington Gardeners' Club members and £5 for guests. Afternoon tea follows the meeting at a modest cost.

For further events, check www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk

The Kensington Society

A programme of lectures, talks, walks and visits is being planned for 2025 and all events, as they are arranged, can be found on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events.

RBKC Active for Life

Full details on www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure, or ring 020 7938 8182. A varied programme of physical activities in Kensington, from gentle walks to sport.

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

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

RBKC offer other physical activities such as yoga and tai chi.

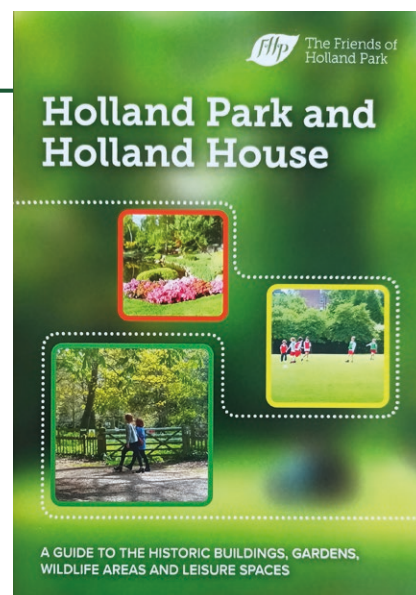
Green guide to Holland Park updated

We have reprinted the small green guide to Holland Park, both because we had sold out and because various facts and telephone numbers needed to be updated, as did the map and the photos.

We decided to keep the price low, at £2, because we wanted everyone who visits the park to have a copy and to have the correct information. You can get your copy from the park office in the Stable Yard, from The Friends' website, or by completing the order form with this newsletter.

Many of you have told us that you give this guide to visitors when they come to stay with you.

Make sure you have a copy!



The events listed below are either organised by The Friends (F), or organised by the Ecology Service (ES), most of which are sponsored by The Friends.

Sun. 14 Sept.	Blue Badge guided tour. Statues, sculptures and Art in the park. Must book. £10	F	10.30-noon
Tues. 16 Sept.	Herbal Medicine walk. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	5-7pm
Wed. 8 Oct.	Tree identification walk in Holland Park, led by Dr Alan Harrington. Free to attend. No need to book. Meet by The Friends' noticeboard in the Café Yard. No dogs please.	F	11am-1pm
Sat. 18 Oct.	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the families that lived there. Must book. £10	F	10.30-noon
Sun. 19 Oct.	Fungi Foray , with Dr Mark Spencer. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	10am-noon
Sat. 25 Oct.	Bird ringing demonstration by Bill Haines in the Wildlife Enclosure. Free to attend. No need to book. No dogs please.	ES	7.30-11.30am
Sat. 8 Nov.	Bird walk led by Bill Haines. Free to attend. No need to book. Meet by The Friends' noticeboard in the Café Yard.	F	9-10.30am
Sun. 7 Dec.	Christmas Concert performed in The Orangery by the Ariel Consort of London. £27. (See p3 in this newsletter for details and how to book tickets.)	F	7pm

The Ecology Service (ES) events can be booked on Eventbrite.

The Friends' (F) Blue Badge tours can be booked on our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or by contacting Isabelle Beaumont on 07549 138 461 or IBeaumontnew@gmail.com. Unless otherwise instructed when you book, meet by The Friends' notice board in the Café Yard.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteers (adults) meet on the third Saturday of each month from 10.30am to 3.30 pm. Tasks focus on practical conservation that helps deliver the Ecology Service management plan and might include dead-hedging, scything, pond clearing and maintaining the paths in the Wildlife Enclosure. If you want to join, or find out more, please email Gerry Kelsey, idverde's Training and Community Manager, at Gerald.Kelsey@idverde.co.uk.

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That we are able to produce this quarterly newsletter for members is in no small measure thanks to the continued support of our advertisers. We are most grateful to them, and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please.

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**.



The cover photo is of the Acer Walk in autumn, taken by Jennie Kettlewell.



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