



*The Friends of Holland Park  
Spring 2018*

*Membership card enclosed  
if you have paid for 2018*

# JOHN WILCOX & Co.

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# Moss Walk Led by Dr Alan Harrington

Saturday, 10 March 2018, 11.00am-1.00pm. Meet in the stable yard



Alan Harrington, known to many of you for his tree walks, spent his professional life studying mosses. He continues to observe them wherever he goes, and has agreed to come to Holland Park 11am-1pm on Saturday, 10 March 2018, to see what is new since the last walk for us on a similar date in 2017



*Cryphaea heteromalla*

when there were some interesting finds. Numbers are strictly limited, so please book your place on 020 7602 0304 or on rhoddy.wood@virgin.net. You will need a hand lens of at least 10 x magnification to appreciate fully the beauty and intricacies of these natural wonders.

## Pimm's in the Park

Tuesday, 24 July 2018, 6-8pm, in the marquee east of the Dutch Garden

We again have to thank Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park, for kindly allowing us to use the marquee on the raised terrace to the east of the Dutch Garden for our annual summer party. We hope for better weather than last year, but even if it does rain, who cares? We will be perfectly protected.

This is our one event of the year that is only open to Friends and their immediate guests, but not to the general public. Pimm's, soft drinks and canapés will be served. Tickets, at £18 each, can be booked on the enclosed order form or via our website.

## Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 18 April 2018  
at 7.30pm in the Orangery

The year 2017 was turbulent for the Borough and for the Council, and 2018 is also likely to be problematic. We will see new contenders for councillor roles in the May local elections, including Holland Ward. In addition, cuts in central government grants to local councils are resulting in reduced budgets for parks right across the country. In this grim context, we must do all we can to ensure Holland Park remains a green, open space for relaxation, a variety of leisure pursuits and quiet reflection for the residents of the borough. The pressure will be on for commercial revenue from the park and, while this is not unexpected, we should not allow the much needed quiet green space to be compromised for the next generation. The Friends work with elected members of the council and with council officers to discuss priorities for long-term sustainability of historic and natural assets, and to make sure projects are implemented sensitively. Do come to the AGM to hear what is being done to meet tough challenges, and to air your own views. We welcome your support and your input.

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## Holland House Conservation

Conservation of Holland House is well overdue, considering the schedule set out in the Conservation Management Plan for the Grade-1-listed building. We understand the inspection commissioned by RBKC has taken place but have seen no report or indication of the state of the

building, the work required or when that work will be done. Historic England has visited the building, has said it is clearly vulnerable, and is pressing RBKC for a response to the concerns they have raised. We wait to see whether prompt action is taken, as it really should not be necessary for the building to be included on the At Risk register once again. The damage has not been caused by the landscaping



*Holland House in January 2018, with finials missing*

works, which are restricted to the ground level.

## Landscaping improvements

The landscaping work around Grade-1-listed Holland House and the café yard is an enormous undertaking and certainly not without its challenges. The surface works look relatively simple, but the real

challenge has been what was found under the terrace. As I write, the granite, porphyry and other paving are being placed on the terrace, and the soft colours work well with the brick and stone of the house. The access ramp is in place south of the hostel car park, and the huge drainage tank lies invisibly beneath the terrace surface. The handover to Opera Holland Park will be in mid-March, and we will have to wait until the end of September to see the full beauty of the work.

## The Gates

In the last issue of the newsletter, we showed the design for new gates intended to go between the stone piers in front of Holland House. RBKC Planning wish to have further discussion about the historic context for the design, and the Planning and Listed Building applications have been withdrawn until this has taken place. We will keep you in touch with progress.

## Nature Play Area

You might remember that the area of woodland immediately to the north of the Ecology Centre was, for a time, open to children as a place to play in a natural environment. It was so successful that the sheer number of little feet compacted the soil, wore away the ground cover, and there was some minor damage to the trees. The space was closed to give the area a chance to recover so that the wildlife could return to a more welcoming habitat. The compaction has proved challenging and needs some help. Leanne Brisland, Borough Head of Ecology, together with the Friends, has developed a plan, which involves hand de-compaction, tree planting and a native hedge. The area, once sufficiently robust, will again



*Foundations for the access ramp*

*(contd on page 5)*

The Friends of Holland Park 2018 Art Exhibition is only a month away and I am pleased to report that our appeal to introduce new artists to the Friends is working.

I am excited about this year's Feature Artist, Małgorzata (Gosia) Łapsa-Malawska. Gosia is a Polish artist based in London. She works mainly in painting as well as in collage, photography, poster design and lithography. Gosia has received several awards, had many solo shows and exhibitions as well as exhibiting with the Friends for the past five years. She is involved in several

local community projects.

Could all artists please ensure that their Exhibition details forms are with me by Friday, 16 March. Please remember to indicate which Private View you would like to attend: Friday night or Saturday morning, otherwise you will not receive tickets.

We hope you will support The Friends of Holland Park by visiting our exhibition and tell all your family, friends and neighbours. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Gordon French*

## Art Exhibition Timetable

Friday, 16 March	All exhibit details forms must be received by this date to allow listing in the catalogue
Friday, 13 April	Artists deliver artworks to the Orangery, Holland Park, 8.30-11am <i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct</i>
Friday, 13 April	Hanging and judging, 11am-6pm
Friday, 13 April	Private View, 7.30-9.30pm, entry by ticket at £3
Saturday, 14 April	Private View, 10.30am-12.30pm, entry by ticket at £3 <i>For the two Private Views, artists are entitled to 5 complimentary tickets in toto</i>
Saturday, 14 April	Exhibition open to the public, 1-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 15 April-Sunday 22 April	Exhibition open to the public, 10.30am-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 22 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6-7pm
Monday, 23 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9-11am

*Artists are particularly asked not to collect their works before 6pm on SUNDAY, 22 April*

## News Update (*contd*)

be open for groups of children under supervision to learn about nature. A path will lead from the entrance to the 'classroom', which will be fashioned from live willow 'furniture'.

### Belvedere

The main work on the exterior of the Belvedere is finished, but the tower is still under scaffolding. The delay is due to a significant beam being placed in a way that makes the permitted duct work impossible. A new scheme has been submitted, approval granted, and the work should soon be completed.

*Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell*



*Work on the Belvedere roof*



## Heavenly Duets

Friday, 20 April 2018, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

Our annual recital in the Orangery, surrounded by the Art Exhibition, will be performed by Heavenly Duets: flautist Anne Allen and harpist Cecily Beer. The concert will begin with the second movement of Mozart's *Flute and Harp Concerto* followed by other achingly beautiful classics such as Saint-Saëns' *The Swan* and Massenet's *Meditation* from his opera *Thaïs*. We will be treated to arrangements of British folk songs, pieces by Gershwin and Mancini, and J. Ibert's vivacious *Entr'acte*, which was in fact originally scored for flute and harp. The centrepiece of the concert will be the World Première of *Suite in the Old Style* by M. Abrams who will be with us to introduce his composition.

Anne Allen has performed solo concerti in venues such as The Queen Elizabeth Hall, St Martin-in-the-Fields and Cadogan Hall. She has played in Europe, the Far



Anne Allen (flute), Cecily Beer (harp)

East, Africa, Russia and America. As well as making recordings, she has won competitions, performed on radio and TV, and for Her Majesty the Queen as well as the Beckhams.

Cecily Beer has performed in Europe, Australasia, French Polynesia and the USA, and for BBC Radio 3 and Classic FM. She is currently Resident Harpist at The Waldorf Hilton Hotel in Covent Garden as well as being in high demand for private and corporate events, performing for Rolling Stones member Ronnie Wood, the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams and, recently, Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

Tickets at £18, to

include wine and nibbles, can be ordered on our website, or by using the enclosed order form.

## Membership Cards and Subscriptions

Those of you who use your membership cards to receive discounts when shopping with some of our Friends & Neighbours, might have noticed that the end of February is when your card expires. A new green one is enclosed with this newsletter if our records show you as having paid your subscription for 2018. Your order form will be white. All subscriptions were due on 1 January except for those who joined after 1 September 2017. If we think you have not yet paid **there will be no membership card** and your order form will be green, with a standing order form on the back. Over 600 of our members use standing orders, as it means they never have to remember again, and it helps our treasurer too.

There is now a further choice of method to pay which is to go on our website, [www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), and pay with your credit/debit card or by PayPal. This avoids

the hassle and expense of finding an envelope, cheque and stamp but cannot be combined with a standing order. You can, however, click on a very obvious yellow button if you want to add a further donation, as some of our members do.

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

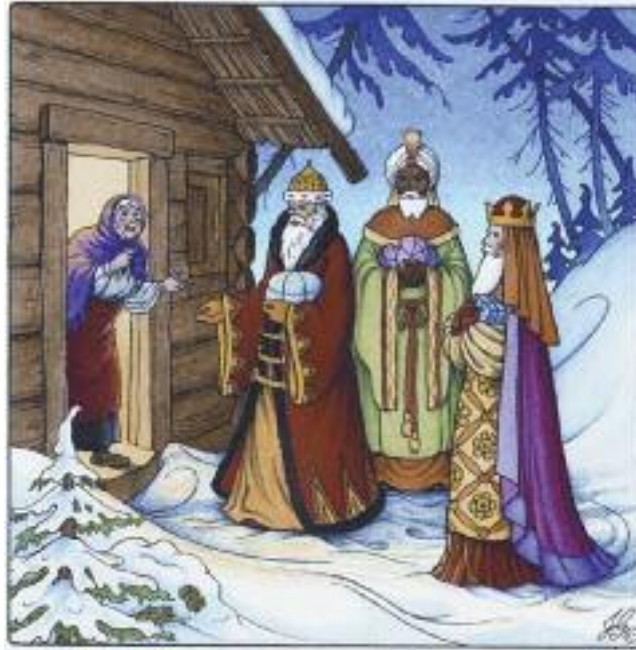
Our records are not infallible, so do contact Rhoddy on 020 7602 0304 or [rhoddy.wood@virgin.net](mailto:rhoddy.wood@virgin.net) if you have a query.

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

There was a good audience on the 10 December in the Orangery for the 18th visit by the Tallis Chamber Choir and their conductor, Philip Simms. With the wide range of carols, in terms of both period and nationality, beautifully performed, and the wonderful food provided by Janice Miles, it was a great way to start the Christmas season.

We began with *Cantate Domino* by Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), one of four motets published in 1620 in *Libro Primo di Motetti*; the text is liberally adapted from Psalm 98 in a distinctive madrigal style, with give and take between the six parts. There followed a jolly contemporary carol, *Blessed be that maid Marie*, by Gareth Treseder, a Welsh tenor and composer and former member of the Kings' Singers. We then had the Coventry Carol, *Lully Lulla Lullay*, a carol dating from the 16th century in a setting by Philip Stopford (b.1977), which is lilting, solemn and hymn-like. This was followed by another contemporary work, *The Shepherd's Carol*, a setting of a poem written by Clive Sansom (1910-81) composed by Bob Chilcott (b.1955), another former King's Singer, with a melody of lovely folk-like simplicity. We finished the first half with Philip Simms' own arrangement of *Have yourself a merry little Christmas*.

After the interval we started with *Ring Christmas bells* by the Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921) with a rhythmic melody imitating bells. This was followed by *Here is the little door* by Herbert Howells (1892-1983), composed in 1918 with a solemn, hymn-like melody. Then came *The three kings* by the German composer, Peter Cornelius (1824-74), for choir with a baritone solo, sung by Philip Simms' 16-year-old grandson. *What shall I give to*



*Babushka meets the three wise men, by Jillian Gilliland*

*the Child in the manger?*, which followed, was a Spanish carol with no attributable composer, with rhythms suggesting the folk drums that accompanied many Spanish carols. We then had *Stars* by the Latvian composer, Eriks Esenvalds (b.1977), an atonal piece with many dissonances, nevertheless accessible and very representative of modern choral harmonic style. There followed *Quem vidistis*, a 17th-century text in a setting by Francis Poulenc (1899-1963) in a style following Maurice Ravel, which blends simplicity

with sophistication. Finally we had the two parts of the *Cherubic Hymn* by Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943), which form part of the *Liturgy of St John Chrysostom*, composed in 1910 in classic Russian Orthodox religious style.

The carols in the first half of the concert were interspersed with the usual humorous readings, and two carols sung by the audience. The second half consisted of the reading of the Russian Christmas legend of *Babushka*, interspersed with the carols listed in the last paragraph, as well as two more for the audience. Babushka was a lonely old woman living in a beautifully kept house, who invited three wise men to take rest in it, but declined their invitation to follow the star with them to find 'the child who is born to be King'. Later she changed her mind and set off to find the child, taking with her toys to present to him. Asking people as she went, she followed the way of the wise men to Bethlehem, but he and his family had already fled to safety. Legend has it that she is still searching to this day and, whenever she meets any children, she gives them toys.

*George Law*

## Off Piste in the Park

We are disappointed to see the green grass of Holland Park treated with so little respect by those who feel the need of four wheels rather than two legs. We were not sure who was taking these short cuts instead of keeping to the paths, but the tyre marks themselves gave the game away and we have been reassured that more care will be taken in future.



*Tyre marks by the drinking fountain*



# Statement of Accounts

## The Friends of Holland Park

### Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2017

	£		2016 £	
<b>Income from:</b>				
<b>Donations and legacies:</b>				
Donations	29,063		5,416	
Legacies	-	29,063	-	5,416
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Subscriptions		12,788		11,768
<b>Other trading income:</b>				
Events	19,315		12,160	
Sale of merchandise	2,561		1,576	
Advertising	1,422	23,298	3,875	17,611
Interest		47		362
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>65,196</b>		<b>35,157</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>				
<b>Raising funds:</b>				
Fundraising	2,100		1,772	
Event expenses	15,089		8,631	
Cost of merchandise	1,516	18,705	340	10,743
<b>Charitable activities:</b>				
Newsletter	10,858		10,107	
Grants and aims expenditure	23,895		33,142	
Governance	413	35,166	340	43,589
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>53,871</b>		<b>54,332</b>
<b>Net income/(expenditure)</b>		<b>11,325</b>		<b>(19,175)</b>
Total funds brought forward		86,470		105,645
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>97,795</b>		<b>86,470</b>

### Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2017

	£		£	
<b>Current assets:</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	201		185	
Deposit and current accounts	97,912	98,113	96,897	97,082
<b>Creditors:</b>				
Amounts falling due within one year		318		10,612
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>97,795</b>		<b>86,470</b>



The pigeons we see everywhere in London in our streets, parks and gardens, are derived from rock doves, which were domesticated for their eggs and meat from the 11th century, were also bred as carrier and racing pigeons, and have returned to the wild. In the UK the true rock dove (*Columba livia*) is now only to be found in the west of Scotland and Ireland, where it nests



*Feral pigeons*

on sea-cliffs and in mountains. Being of the same species, rock and London pigeons can interbreed. Unlike most birds, they don't only breed in the spring but all year round. Small wonder there are so many.

True to its heritage, the 'London' or 'feral' pigeon (*Columba livia* domest.) makes its nest on roofs or ledges, or high up in trees. I remember one that nested on the top rung of the fire escape outside my office. I watched the two downy chicks grow until they fledged and disappeared, never to return. Feral pigeons have adapted well to city life as they have discovered that there is easy access to food without

having to work for it. They particularly like outdoor cafés such as in Holland Park where there is a quick snack to be had under the tables or, with only a little more effort, a more substantial meal from the plates that sit on top. It is quite easy for them to help themselves when you aren't looking. You aren't even safe from them inside the café, as they sneak through the door when

someone goes in. They even appear to have mastered the automatic revolving door into Charing Cross Hospital, which leads to the ground-floor café, where they were once scavenging for crumbs under my table.

Like true Londoners they also use the underground, as they have discovered that passengers eat on the move. I once saw a pigeon hop on to a Circle Line train at Notting Hill Gate, mop up the crumbs from the floor and then hop off at Bayswater, no doubt to wait for the next train back.

*Kathleen Hall*

## Notes on the Accounts for 2017

We were fortunate to have several significant donations in 2017, in particular the late Andrew Whiteley's money for the restocking of the Mediterranean Bed, and the funding of a new children's guide to the park by RBKC's City Living, Local Life fund. We are most grateful to all the members who have generously sent us a donation during the year. Events income was £19,315 in 2017, compared with £12,160 in 2016, largely due to healthy sales at our art

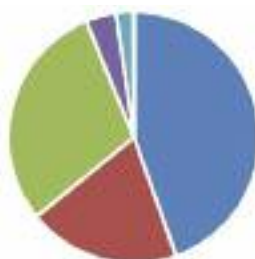
exhibition. Event costs were also up, also due to increased art sales, because that means we pay more back to the artists. The events surplus rose from £3,529 in 2016 to £4,226 in 2017.

Grants and aims expenditure (funding projects in the park and producing guides to the park) was down year on year, but this is largely due to timing, as several planned projects were postponed until 2018.

## Statement of Accounts (*contd*)

### Income from:

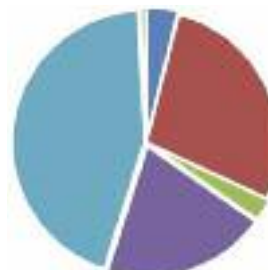
Donations	29,063
Subscriptions	12,788
Events	19,315
Sales	2,561
Advertising	1,422
Interest	47



- Donations
- Subscriptions
- Events
- Sales
- Advertising
- Interest

### Expenditure on:

Fundraising	2,100
Events	15,089
Merchandise	1,516
Newsletter	10,858
Grants	23,895
Governance	413



- Fundraising
- Events
- Merchandise
- Newsletter
- Grants
- Governance

We are very pleased to announce that the restaurant ULI, in Notting Hill Gate, is the latest local business to join our Friends & Neighbours scheme. The restaurant serves carefully selected dishes from Asia, prepared using traditional Chinese,



*ULI*

Thai, Malay and Singaporean disciplines. They believe that Asian food should be clean, fresh and healthy. Originally established on All Saints Road in 1997, ULI became a firm favourite among locals and critics alike. At its new home on Ladbroke Road, its pretty terrace forms part of the vibrant local scene. ULI serves lunch and dinner all week as well as an extensive range of snacks, cocktails and beverages. Please do visit them soon.

5 Ladbroke Road, W11 3PA.

tel. 020 3141 5878

[www.ulilondon.com](http://www.ulilondon.com)

**Offer:** 10% discount on meals in the restaurant.

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## Lycetts Insurance Broker Offers Discount to Members

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Lycetts is different from most insurance brokers in that it is owned by a charity (Allchurches Trust), and all their available profits are invested in the community. They have been advising property owners for nearly 60 years, using the experience gained to build a deep understanding of risk, and to create insurance products that reflect the needs of their clients.

The firm has offered members of The Friends a 10% discount off the premium for household policies under 'The Friends of Holland Park Household Insurance Scheme'. In

addition, the firm will make a small charitable donation to The Friends each year.



*Jonathan Lloyd*

This contact came about by a chance meeting at a reception given by the Tregothnan Tea Company. After introductions and a short conversation about each of our organisations, we both realised that Lycetts already arrange liability insurance for The Friends. We went on to discuss mutual interests and the discount offer. Jonathan Lloyd not only knows our park but was born in a house almost next to it. If you are interested, please contact Jonathan at Lycetts for a quote when your household insurance comes up for renewal.

Contact: Jonathan Lloyd at Lycetts' London Office: Tel 020 7398 1660 or [jonathan.lloyd@lycetts.co.uk](mailto:jonathan.lloyd@lycetts.co.uk).

The painting I was given by Bob Woodward shows a brick-built house in Melbury Road, shaded at the back by large trees in the Holland House estate and, in the front, by a pair of London planes. As a child, Bob lived in the house with three generations of his family, including his grandfather who was carpenter to Holland House in the first half of the 20th century. He asked if The Friends could find a fitting home for the painting.



*Painting of Melbury Lodge*

Known as Melbury Lodge, this house (it was actually two cottages joined together) backed onto the large field that ran south from Holland House to Melbury Court on Kensington High Street.

Melbury Lodge was the home of Henry Edward Cowper, carpenter to Holland House at the time the estate was owned by the 6th Earl of Ilchester. Henry married Lillian Davison; they gave birth to two sons and, in 1923, a daughter, also called Lillian. The place of birth is registered as 'The Lodge, Holland House'. This daughter married Horace Woodward in 1945 and moved away but, when she had her son Bob, they moved back to her childhood home, Melbury Lodge, to live with her parents. Bob remembers it as a close family group, made up of grandparents, parents,



*Henry Cowper*

uncles and his siblings. There are no formal records of Melbury Lodge, but that may just be the name by which it was known locally, and I wonder if it was the lodge to Holland House before the Ilchester Gate lodge was built. Henry worked for the 6th Earl of Ilchester, who owned Holland House and its pleasure grounds, until it was sold off to the LCC in 1952. A little chronological arithmetic indicates that Bob's childhood in Melbury Lodge must have

been well after the incendiary bomb damaged Holland House in 1940, and his grandfather must have been working there at the time of the devastation, and possibly after the estate was in public hands. The remains of Holland

House and its historic ancillary buildings would have meant continued demand for his carpentry skills. In 1954, Bob's parents took their growing family to live in Hammersmith, but it seems that grandfather Henry and his wife might have stayed on at Melbury Lodge until the sale of the south-west part of Holland Park to developers was being considered. The sale happened around 1960,

followed by the building of the Park Close apartment buildings and the Commonwealth Institute (now the Design Museum). The Lodge was demolished around this time, and three terrace houses were built on the site. The painting is an interesting record of times long gone. Though unsigned, Woodward family lore claims that it was painted by a former prisoner of war.

Bob remembers: 'The part of Holland Park behind our house was a forest, and it was dark and scary for a young boy. I certainly wouldn't have braved that path on my own!' He recalls that they would never dream of using the more obvious Ilchester Gate, because that was for the exclusive use of the Ilchester family. The 'staff entrance' to the park ran between two of the grand houses on Melbury Road, and



*Bob Woodward at the Lodge*

you can still see the gate piers at the opening of the lane. He remembers visiting the Ilchesters in Stafford Court with his grandfather. He also recalls accompanying his grandmother for tea and cake with members of the Ilchesters' staff. She probably knew them well because she had also been employed on the estate. Another memory is of keeping chickens in the back garden of the Lodge, and Bob watched as his father dispatched them for the table, which makes sense during a time of post-war food rationing.

A happy conclusion to the story is that the Ilchester Estate has accepted the gift of the painting to hang in their Abbotsbury Road office.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Tree removal and remedial work

During a recent tree survey in the park, several old trees were found to be declining and likely to become dangerous. The council is carrying out a programme of felling, or removal of potentially dangerous branches.

You will have noticed the removal of a number of the Red Horse Chestnut trees that run in a line across the top of the sports field, and drastic pruning of the remainder. This hybrid species typically has a shorter life span than the more common Horse Chestnut and is prone to debilitating pests and diseases such as bleeding canker and a condition known as bud proliferation which eventually results in rot, making the tree more likely to snap. We are sorry to lose them, but it offers the opportunity for interesting new trees, chosen for their appropriateness to the site, to be planted next winter.

This work is an essential part of the long-term strategy, to ensure the park's trees are healthy and flourish, so that we leave a beautiful green landscape for generations to come.

## Proactive tree health

Proactive treatment is better than dealing with declining trees. The Friends funded a tree health care programme for the second year running, which saw Bartlett Tree Experts de-compact soil around selected trees, and give each a comforting blanket of mulch. De-compacting helps the roots to grow and 'breathe', and the mulch feeds the roots: the equivalent of a person looking after their health by eating a nutritious diet. In December 2017, 15 trees in the Commonwealth Copse (the copse of trees at the



*Red Horse Chestnuts*

bottom of the sports field right next to the Design Museum) were treated. Two spindly trees, which should never have been planted where they were, have been removed, and the remainder have been air-spaded and mulched. Bartletts told us we would notice the improved health, and indeed we could when we revisited the trees treated in 2016. The leaves of the big London Plane outside the Orangery, the Walnut near to it and the two

Coral Ash trees on the Belvedere lawn all showed reduced signs of disease. The very rare Birch-leaved Pear near the Phillimore Walk entrance and the Headache tree near tennis courts 1 and 2 had noticeably flourishing crowns of leaves. All very satisfying.

## 420 saplings from The Woodland Trust

The Friends worked with the Ecology team to bid for a parcel of 420 native saplings, all free, as part of the Woodland Trust's campaign to 'see a UK rich in native woods and trees, for people and wildlife'. We have been granted the trees, which will arrive in early March and be planted in the woodlands.



*Commonwealth Copse*

## Champion trees in Holland Park

In our winter issue we told you of the visit from David Alderman, Director of the Tree Register of the British Isles (TROBI). The result

is a list of Holland Park's champion trees, exceptional for size, age, historical association or rarity. The list is published on TROBI's website and we hope to tell you more in our summer newsletter.

*Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell*



**Kensington Gardeners' Club** (information from [www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk](http://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk) or please contact\_07949 769702).

*10 March Doors open 2pm  
Talk starts 2.30pm*

Talk by Stephen Anderton, The Times garden correspondent and author of 'The Courageous Gardener'. Basement lecture theatre, Kensington Town Hall.

*28 April*

Visit to Pashley Manor Gardens and Nymans in East Sussex. £30 for members and £33 for guests, coach transport and entry fees included. Need to book and pay by 30 March.

*10 May*

Visit to Oxford Botanic Gardens. Travel together on Oxford Tube from Notting Hill Gate. Pay as you go. Need to book.

**Opera Holland Park** (all information from [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com). Tickets available from 0300 999 1000)

*29 May, 1, 5, 7, 9, 11 (Young Artists Performance),  
15, 21, 23 June at 7.30pm, 17 June matinée at 2pm*

**La traviata** by Verdi

*31 May, 2, 6, 8, 14, 16, 20, 22 June at 7.15pm*

**Così fan tutte** by Mozart

*14, 18, 20, 26, 28 July at 7.30pm*

**Isabeau** by Mascagni

*17, 19, 21, 25, 27 July at 7.30pm*

**Ariadne auf Naxos** by Richard Strauss

**The Kensington Society** (all information and online booking on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events))

*4 April*

CPR training, with London Ambulance Brigade, Committee Room 1, Kensington Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8.

*21 May, 6.30pm*

Kensington Society AGM, guest speaker Barry Quirk, RBKC's new chief executive. Great Hall, Town Hall, Horton Street, W8. Drinks afterwards.

*5 June*

Tour of selected houses designed by celebrated Victorian architects, Sir Ernest George and Harold Peto. Harrington Gardens and Collingham Gardens. Tour led by Professor Hilary Grainger, chairman of the Victorian Society.

## Payments via the FHP website

If you no longer wish to make payments to The Friends of Holland Park by post, you can now pay directly from our website. Payments may be made for new membership, renewing membership, event tickets, art exhibition entries and merchandise.

Payment is made through PayPal, but you are not required to have a PayPal account; you can make

payment with your debit or credit card.

As from now it will no longer be possible to download an order form from the website. Paid-up members will still receive an order form with this newsletter.

If you have any problems, please contact Rhoddy Wood on 020 7602 0304 or [rhoddy.wood@virgin.net](mailto:rhoddy.wood@virgin.net).



## Dates for your Diary

All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. The Friends' Nature Walks (NW) are continuing to be led by varying regulars while we look for a new permanent leader with the requisite skills and commitment. We will have a one-and-a-half-hour stroll through the park looking at birds, plants, butterflies and park management of current interest. There is no charge, and all are welcome without booking. Meet outside the Stable Yard 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.

The Ecology team have, yet again, planned an exciting programme of talks, walks and events for the year ahead, all aimed at encouraging children and adults to explore and understand the natural world we are lucky enough to have around us in Holland Park. In order that the events can be free for participants, the Friends will continue to sponsor the walks and talks that are led by independent experts in their field and ensure their costs are covered.

Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBKC are listed as 'ES'; where FHP have sponsored them, this is indicated. Unless otherwise stated the meeting place is in the Ecology Centre near the Adventure Playground. Some must be booked, in which case please call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail [ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk). There is a charge for those marked £.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteer days (for adults) are every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3pm; meet outside the Stable Yard. No specialist skills are required, and this is your chance to make new friends while getting healthy outdoor exercise: digging, chopping and planting in the wilder parts of the park. Refreshments, gloves, tools and instructions provided. Wear sturdy shoes and old clothes, and bring waterproofs and your lunch. For further information from the Ecology Team visit [www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology](http://www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology), call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail [ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk](mailto:ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk).

Sat 10 Mar	<b>Moss Walk.</b> Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in stable yard. Must book ( <i>see p.3</i> )	11am-1pm
Thurs 15 Mar	ES. Earthworm ecology talk (sponsored). Must book	6-7.30pm
Sat 24 Mar	ES. Beginner's guide to birdwatching (sponsored). Must book	9-11.30am
Fri 30 Mar - Fri 13 Apr	ES. Children's spring holiday activities. Must book. £	
Sat 7 Apr	<b>NW</b>	
Thurs 12 Apr	ES. Seeds of Spring: Ecology Centre Afternoon. Drop in	12 noon-4pm
Sat 14 - Sun 22 April	<b>Annual Art Exhibition</b> ( <i>see p.5</i> ), in the Orangery	
Wed 18 Apr	<b>Annual General Meeting</b> ( <i>see p.3</i> ), in the Orangery	7.30pm
Fri 20 Apr	<b>Heavenly Duets concert</b> ( <i>see p.6</i> ), in the Orangery, £18	7.30pm
Sat 28 Apr	ES. Dawn chorus bird walk (sponsored). Car park. Must book	5-7am
Sat 28 Apr	ES. Family bird song walk (sponsored). Car park. Must book	8-10am
Sat 5 May	<b>NW</b>	
Thurs 10 May	ES. Spring bat walk (sponsored). Bring a torch. Must book	8.30-10pm
Thurs 24 May	ES. Stag beetle talk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 26 May*	<b>Summer tree walk.</b> Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in stable yard <i>*(changed from 19 May, due to royal wedding)</i>	11am-1pm
Sat 26 May	ES. Spring Trees: Wildlife Area Open Day. Drop in	12 noon-4pm
Mon 28 May-Fri 1 June	ES. Half-term children's holiday activities. Must book. £	
Thurs 31 May	ES. Birds of Holland Park: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon	12 noon-4pm
Sat 2 June	<b>NW</b>	
Sat 23 June	ES. Butterfly and moth walk (sponsored). Must book	10-11.30am
Thurs 28 June	ES. Fox talk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Thurs 5 July	ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 7 July	<b>NW</b>	
Sat 14 July	ES. Pond surveying: Wildlife Area Open Day	12 noon-4pm
Thurs 19 July	ES. Wild plants of Holland Park walk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Tues 24 July	<b>Pimm's in the Park</b> , marquee at east end of Dutch Garden, £18	6-8pm



President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Treasurer Silvi Spassov

Events Organiser Graham Franklin

Assistant Treasurer Simon Lindesay-Bethune

Publicity Nigel Brockmann

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Website Nicholas Hopkins

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Park Observer Andy Walker



*The cover photo of Ceanothus growing in the Holland Park car park was taken by your editor in May 2013*

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

## Defibrillators in Holland Park

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We have been asked to let our members know about the availability of defibrillators in Holland Park. All Parks Police vehicles are equipped with a defibrillator and there is also one in the Holland Park Police Office in the Stable Yard. If you find someone in Holland Park in need of a defibrillator (not breathing or appears to be suffering a heart attack), please call 999. This will alert the London Ambulance Service. Any call made to the London Ambulance Service concerning someone in our parks and open spaces, is automatically forwarded to the Parks Police duty phone. This is to ensure the fastest possible response until an ambulance arrives.

### **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.



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