



*The Friends of Holland Park*  
*Summer 2018*

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## Holland Park's Cup of Tea



Talk on Thursday, 25 October 2018, at 7pm in The Orangery

Holland Park has a long history of growing glorious camellias. Some, thought to have been planted around 1890, are still resplendent right next to The Orangery. What the Park has not had until this June is the *Camellia sinensis*, which is of course the plant that produces tea.



*Jonathan Jones*

Our speaker, Jonathan Jones, knows all about camellias because he established the first British tea plantation at the Tregothnan Estate in Cornwall. The estate is owned by the Boscawen family, who have a passion for growing rare plants, and Jonathan joined them as head gardener just over 20 years ago. Since being granted a Nuffield Scholarship to develop the tea plantation, he has travelled to all the major tea-producing countries in search of success stories. Tregothnan is now a very successful tea business itself.

Drinking tea is part of the British identity but how much do we really think about what goes into making the perfect brew, from growing the plants, harvesting and processing the leaves, to making the perfect beverage. Having attended a day-long tutorial by Jonathan, I know that he is a fascinating speaker, with an impressive knowledge of his subject. We are fortunate to catch him between

his travels to come and share his experience with us.

Tickets are £18, to include Janice Miles' delicious canapés, wine, and we might even get a tea cocktail!

To order tickets please use the order form enclosed with this newsletter, or buy tickets on our website.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Pimm's in the Park

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

There is still time to book for our annual summer party, again to be held in the marquee on the raised terrace to the east of the Dutch Garden, thanks to Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park. The pouring rain did not spoil our enjoyment last year, and perhaps we will have better luck this time.

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 via our website or on the enclosed order form.

## Children's Guide to Exploring Holland Park

Many of you bring children to the park, and we are sure that they will love this book, packed with fabulous things to discover, interesting facts and lots of fun activities. At 36 pages, there is enough to keep little people occupied through the holidays and over many visits, so *you* do not have to think up ideas to occupy them. We were advised by children (6-10-year-olds) who told us what they really, really liked and what simply did not interest them; and we listened. If you have children, small relatives or friends with kids, do not deny them the chance to try out the word searches, spotting challenges, nature drawing, 'spot the difference' and dot-to-dot pictures. Order an advance copy for £5 from our secretary, Rhoddy Wood, Tel. 020 7602 0304/ rhoddy.wood@virgin.net, or order from The Friends' website.





*Camlin Lonsdale*  
*Old sewer under  
the House terrace*

The elegant brick-lined passage pictured left is an old private sewer for Holland House, found under the terrace during the recent landscaping work.

Xanthe Quayle of Camlin Lonsdale, the landscape architects who designed the scheme, gave us a fascinating glimpse of the unexpected discoveries during the work on the terrace: hollow chambers, dressed kerbstones, crazy

drainage and unexplained walls. Each new find had to be explored and dealt with before work could continue. The laid paving finish on the planning application all looks relatively simple, but it is what is under the ground that has proved to be the real challenge.

The audience were clearly impressed with Xanthe and her team's attention to detail in choice of stone types, colours and variation for the paving, all of which had to take account of the huge weight of the Opera Holland Park auditorium canopy and the 50-ton crane needed to install it. Not, by any means, a simple commission, added to which Xanthe explained that a project of this magnitude would normally be allowed 18 months, rather than the six month winter break between opera seasons.

The terrace will be a great place to sit in the winter sun, to admire Holland House and its new environment, but we will not be able to do this until the end of September. At that point we will be able to enjoy the pinks, ochres and pale greys of the different stones. We will write a more detailed article in our winter newsletter.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Annual General Meeting 2018: Report

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The Friends' AGM was held on 18 April 2018. President, Sir Angus Stirling, welcomed those present and the minutes of the 2017 meeting were approved.

The **Trustees' Report for 2017** was presented by Andy Walker, the main points being:

- The year had been one of messy works in the park, being improvements to the historic buildings.
- The enhancement of the Holland House terrace, approach road and the Café Yard had started in September.
- Rainwater management work had been carried out in the west of the park.
- The Friends had contributed to the Council's Holland Park Conservation Area Appraisal, which describes the essence of the park as a statement of what aspects need to be protected and maintained.
- Grants to the park included replanting of the Mediterranean Bed in the Dutch Garden, the second stage of the proactive tree health programme, Ecology Centre walks and talks, and a map of Holland Park.

Silvi Spassov gave the **Treasurer's Report for 2017**. The balance for the financial year 2017 was £97,795: up on 2016 due to funding expenditure projects being postponed to 2018 and to exceptionally high income from donations (£86,470). Events income had been £19,315 in 2017, compared with £12,160 in 2016, largely due to healthy sales at our art exhibition. The events surplus had risen from £3,529 in 2016 to £4,226 in 2017. The full accounts had been circulated in the spring 2018 newsletter.

The **Secretary's Report** was delivered by Rhoddy Wood, who said that membership stood at 1,016, higher than the same time last year. Payment via The Friends' website was helping to increase membership, though the number of

members signing up for Gift Aid had declined. Gift Aid was important as it resulted in an additional 25% tax refund on the cost of each subscription or donation paid by a signed-up member. Mrs Wood thanked all those who kindly help deliver the newsletters.

**Election of the trustees.** Silvi Spassov was elected as a trustee. All other trustees had agreed to stand again and were duly re-elected.

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

**Chairman's Outlook for 2018.** Chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, emphasised that, after a year of messy works, the built assets of the park are now in better shape, with the exception of Grade-1-listed Holland House. Opera Holland Park had obtained consent for their buildings for the next three years. Written into that consent was the fact that OHP would work with The Friends and other stakeholders to see what could be done to shorten the time taken for the ancillary buildings to be cleared, and for the terrace to be open to the public earlier than in former years. She thanked Nicholas Hopkins for his tireless work to enable payment through The Friends' website, the trustees for the staggering amount they achieved each year, and Sir Angus Stirling for his wise advice and reassurance. There were some interesting questions from members, which we are making sure we address.

Much has happened since the AGM, and this newsletter is an opportunity to update you, rather than report on the situation as it was in mid-April (see News Update on p.5).



**Holland House Terrace**  
Contractors, Blakedown, formally handed the newly resplendent Holland House terrace back the Council at 9.30 a.m. on 19 March. An hour later Opera Holland Park started work on their build for this year's season. It is a great credit to Camlin Lonsdale and Blakedown that they were only one week later than the scheduled date, considering the real challenges found under



*Camlin Lonsdale*

*New House terrace*

the ground they were paving. We will see the full beauty of the new landscaping after the opera season. Thanks are due to Opera Holland Park for shaving time off the deconstruct time last autumn and a speedier build this spring. The intention is that there will be a ticketed celebration on the terrace for members, stakeholders, Council officers and elected members, and of course those who carried out this large project. We think this is likely to be in the early evening on Tuesday, 25 September. Watch our website and noticeboards in the park for details.

## Café Yard

The café's south terrace is now open and attracting custom. By the time you read this, the work on the full extent of the café's outside area should be completed, and the capacity will have increased from 80 to 170 seats. This has been partly achieved by opening up the area under the western arches, previously used for storage. The café will look wonderful but a little stark to begin with, and we need to green it up as appropriate for a park.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*The Café Yard with its new tree*

## Nature Play Area

You might have noticed the flourishing living willow classroom that has appeared in the Nature Play Area just to the north of the Ecology Centre. This is part of a wider project being worked on by the Ecology team and The Friends. Some years ago, this area was given free access as a children's play area, but its popularity was its undoing, and the result was compaction, loss of ground cover, loss of habitat and damaged trees. It had to be

closed to the public and has not re-opened. The intention is to have limited and supervised access by a single gate and path to the willow classroom. Woodland management work will produce a healthy canopy layer, an understorey of shrubs and green ground cover as an attractive and appropriate environment for children to learn about nature. The Friends will work with Ecology to re-apply to the Mayor's Greener City Fund, with the fund opening for applications from July 2018. Funds are needed to cover the cost of volunteer work, materials and planting. We have received feedback on why the 2017 bid was unsuccessful, and have been advised to limit future access to avoid re-compaction and to guard

against 'woodland gardening' i.e. pretty flowers that are not in keeping with natural woodland.

## Holland House Conservation

Conservation of Holland House remains well overdue, considering the schedule set out in the Conservation Management Plan for the Grade-1-listed building. We heard that a condition report was sent to Historic England who were considering their

response to the Council's proposals for essential work. It would be of great concern if this grand listed building did not live up to its new environment. (Contd on page 6)



*Erect Architecture Robert Bray Associates*

*Proposed layout of Adventure Playground (not to scale)*

### Adventure Playground

This playground is well used and popular, with the result that it is suffering from the wear and tear of many years. Plans for a much improved playground, including drainage works, have been agreed under a Certificate of Lawful Development, which did not require consultation. Planning consent was, however, required for the equipment over four metres in height, and a decision is due by 26

June. The Friends' concern was the application to fell 12 trees. After discussion between RBKC Park Management, a Council tree officer and trustees, it was established that several of these trees were poor specimens that needed to be removed on safety grounds, and some others would jeopardise the drainage needed to prevent the playground from flooding. The contention was about three horse chestnuts, two of which were not especially good specimens and not expected to last more than ten years. Given that this costly renovation is expected to last at least 20-25 years, it has reluctantly been decided to achieve the best possible playground and drainage solution, and replace the chestnuts with trees that will last the course.



*Acer freemanii in autumn*

### Tree donated by The Friends

An excellent start to the greening up of the café area is the new *Acer freemanii* 'Autumn Blaze', donated by The Friends and looking splendid in the Café Yard. This semi-mature specimen was planted on 25 May by Cllr David Lindsay (Lead Member for Healthy City Living) and chairman of The Friends, Jennie Kettlewell. To ensure it thrives in this paved area, there is an impressive 2-cubic-metre structure under the ground, which will allow the air and water to reach the roots, without compaction.

### Belvedere tower

We are surprised that this renovation work is not yet completed. In order to improve the temporary appearance for those hiring the Belvedere and Orangery, we understand that the scaffolding will be covered with a scenic screen, depicting the tower beneath it.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



Anyone paying attention to the media will be well aware that public parks are threatened in many ways, not least by budget cuts. Holland Park is no exception and while, on the whole, significant reductions in the annual operating budget have been staved off over the past couple of years, we do not think this position will last for ever. Cuts will inevitably impact negatively on the park.



*Bedding plants in the Dutch Garden*

Of course, less money means fewer gardeners, and fewer gardeners mean that some of the customary tasks cannot get done. Our *idverde* team do a great job in Holland Park. They are knowledgeable, hardworking and very pleasant to those of us who bother them with questions. But something has to give.

One option is to change the priorities, at least for the foreseeable future. The seasonal planting in the Dutch Garden looks stunning, but it is extraordinarily heavy on staff hours. With two changes of bedding plants each year, our gardeners' time is taken up with planting, then removing and replanting, and they have less time to spend on other areas of the park which can quickly get weedy.

It is right that the Kyoto, Dutch, Napoleon and Rose Gardens should continue to be showpieces, and that the gardeners should be rightly proud of them. It would, however, be quite possible to change to more sustainable planting in the Dutch Garden so that some plants can remain in place for longer. Bulbs can always grow through them. Our gardeners are clever and would be well capable of designing a less time-intensive planting scheme that would still delight the eye.

I hope our members will support the trustees in campaigning for sustainable planting.

While on the subject of lean resources, I notice other park groups are surprised at the *very* small Council team that manages the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea's many parks and green spaces (around 90 in all). There is a robust strategy in place, but it is hard to free up time to progress it when time is

inevitably taken up with trouble-shooting.

I am often asked why we cannot fill the gap with volunteers. We already have some excellent volunteers, but the scheme is limited unless we can find more managers to recruit, brief and oversee the work. It would be great to have a permanent volunteer manager on the Park Management team.

All those involved have a responsibility for stewardship of our beautiful park so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. We must not allow this asset to be debased and devalued over time.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



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Jennie Kettlewell

*idverde's Rob May and Mark Sinclair talking to Pat and Herb, with a thoughtful Hugh Johnson*

Member and tree expert Hugh Johnson organised a visit from the International Camellia Society (ICS) to discuss care of our old plants. The ICS's Pat and Herb Short visited Holland Park for the first time on 20 March and told us they estimated that the camellias in the bed alongside the west of the Orangery were planted in the second half of the 19th century, and thought them 'a venerable treasure'. They commented that these *Camellia japonica* Alba Plena had clearly never had their growth restricted, which explained their height, '...to be expected in a genus whose members mostly want to be trees'. It also explained why the double white blooms are primarily high up at the tops of the plants, and difficult to see. They advised that camellias are tough and that *idverde* had been quite correct when they had wanted to hard prune these old plants.

These white camellias were once under glass, possibly grown to provide corsages for the ladies to wear at the sparkling Holland

House parties. A photo dated 1886 clearly shows two lean-to glasshouses, one along the west and one on the east flank of The Orangery, as does an Ordnance Survey map of 1916. So it appears that the whole 'conservatory' structure was much wider than the current building. One photo (1886) indicates that the arches of The Orangery were open to the glasshouses



*Camellia japonica*

on either side and not glazed as they are now. I have yet to discover when these glasshouses were removed and The Orangery windows glazed. A second historic site for camellias in Holland Park is the long north-facing bed that backs onto the wall of the Dutch Garden. After the London County Council (LCC) bought Holland Park from the Ilchester family in 1952, rubbish and dead branches were cleared from this bed, and it was made ready for planting. Pat and Herb Short thought it would have been about this time that the camellias we enjoy today were planted. It is here that our new acquisition of a *Camellia sinensis* (tea bush) will be planted. We were fortunate to have had these highly knowledgeable ICS specialists to advise us. It was Herb Short who was responsible for the restoration of the famous Chiswick House camellia collection, which is in rude health today. We should be proud that Holland Park sports such venerable plants, and Pat Short concluded: 'It was a fascinating visit ..... It really is a nice collection. In fact, we have suggested to several camellia friends visiting the UK, that they visit the Holland Park camellias, as well as the more obvious gardens such as the Isabella Plantation in Richmond Park, Kew and Chiswick House.' Pat and Herb Short hope to come to Holland Park again next spring.

**A challenge for you:** the first person to produce a genuine historic illustration (i.e. before the estate was sold to the LCC

in 1952) of a lady wearing a double white camellia at a Holland House party, will receive a copy of Gry Iverslien's book *Impressions of Holland Park*. Please contact [jenniekettlewell@aol.com](mailto:jenniekettlewell@aol.com) if you find an illustration showing a camellia.

Jennie Kettlewell





*The exhibition in full swing*

Firstly, I would like to thank the artists for making this year's exhibition a great success. We made over £10,000 in sales and more than half of the artists sold works. Also, this year we had an increase in sculpture and ceramics which gave the exhibition both balance and variety. As always, the exhibition was beautifully curated by Alison Becket. So to all artists and Alison – a massive thank you.

I would also like to thank our feature artist Małgorzata (Gosia) Łapsa-Malawska. Gosia's artwork on the exhibition poster was a real draw-card, and she made herself available to visitors for the duration of the exhibition.

Each year Isabel Langtry, Principal of Hampstead School of Art, judges our exhibition and we thank her for her time and expertise. Isabel also generously awards a prize for Applied Art: one term's tuition in an applied art course. The artists who were awarded prizes were Elizabeta Chojak-Mysko for Artistic Excellence with her watercolour 'Walk'; Ivan Kulinski in the three-dimensional category with his sculpture 'King and Queen'; Kye Sook Park the Hugh Casson Prize for Drawing with 'Melody of Love IV'; Emily Marbach for Applied Art with 'Kensington Feathers'; and Krystyna Dankiewicz's 'Sunset in Holland Park' was awarded the Spirit of Holland Park prize by the FHP trustees. A tremendous 'well done' to all the prize-winners, and to Isabel for her considered judgement.

I was very proud of this year's exhibition. The Orangery looked superb, and the administration all went to plan, thanks to my wife Sandra and daughter Alex (aka Alessia). As always, Rhoddy Wood was on hand to help in all areas, especially the Mini-Market, which did very well this year. Thanks also to Joy Puritz, for her compilation of the catalogue, year after year. We are also most grateful to the other trustees and the stewards for volunteering their time.

This year the icing on the cake was the sponsorship of the exhibition by Ilchester Estates. The family has been a part



*A closer look*

of Holland Park and the history of Holland House for many years, being the final owners before handing it over to the Council. Their new development of Holland Green, next to the Design Museum, is breathing new life into this end of the High Street. I would like to thank Ilchester Estates for their support, which I hope will continue and grow in the years to come.

As always, we had generous support from local restaurants, hotels and businesses for our raffle, the entire proceeds of which go to The Friends.

Thank you again to the artists – you are the exhibition! I look forward to doing it all again next year at the 2019 Art Exhibition.

*Gordon French*



## Heavenly Duets

It felt like a summer's evening in The Orangery on 20 April: the sun was shining, the air was warm, the children and peacocks were crying out merrily across the lawn. Inside was the glittering display of glass, ceramics, bronze sculptures, not to mention the screens against both walls covered with art works of the highest standard, a standard which we have come to expect of our annual art exhibition. The browsers had been put to one side to make space for chairs, for this was our concert night, this time blessed with the delightful combination of flautist and harpist, a duo known as Heavenly Duets, normally made up of Anne Allen (flute) and Cecily Beer (harp), but

Cecily having that morning been taken ill, Portuguese-born Zita Silva replaced her at a few hours' notice, giving us a highly accomplished performance without a pluck out of place. Anne Allen's flute playing was beautifully expressive: one could hear at once in the opening piece, the second movement of Mozart's Flute and Harp Concerto, how much she loved what she was playing.



*Sandra French*  
Zita and Anne rehearsing in the afternoon of the concert

We were treated to more classical music, by Saint-Saëns, Massenet, Debussy and the French harpist, Marcel Tournier, before Mike Abrams stood up from the audience to tell us about his composition, *Suite in the Old Style*, of which we were to hear the world première. He reassured us that, as the title suggested, this was not going to be in the style of a composer like Stockhausen; indeed, the three movements were perfectly accessible and a great pleasure to hear.

The second half took on a lighter mood, with British folksong arrangements, Mancini's *Moon River* and Gershwin's *Embraceable You*.

Instead of the billed *Entr'acte* by Ibert, the concert was rounded off with Lord Henry Somerset's *A Song of Sleep*. Anne read out the poem, also written by the composer, assuring us that, in this cruel world, sleep is a great consoler. Despite this soothing finale, the audience did not fall asleep but helped to remove the chairs in order to make way for wine and Janice Miles's delicious canapés.

*Joy Puritz*

## New Offers for The Friends

### Artisan du Chocolat



After founding the chocolatier business in 2000, Gerard Coleman is still hands-on in the production atelier so that he can focus full attention on

finding the finest ingredients, and on quality, which is his passion. In the shops it is the aroma that first strikes you, then the wonderful display of irresistible chocolate. Go on, treat yourself! And do try their hot chocolate drink as you won't have experienced anything quite so indulgent before.

**Offer:** 25% discount on all in-store purchases.

Participating branches of Artisan du Chocolat are:  
246 Kensington High Street, London, W8 6DN. t. 020 7348 0381

81 Westbourne Grove, London W2 4UL. t. 0845 270 6696 (option 2)

89 Lower Sloane Street, London SW1W 8DA. t. 0845 270 6996 (option 3)

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

### Jeroboams' new shop

We are very pleased to announce that the newest branch of Jeroboams is the latest local business to join our Friends & Neighbours scheme. The store offers a wide choice of wines both classic and from lesser-known interesting producers. There is a selection of spirits, some of which you might not find easily elsewhere. Do visit soon and ask manager, Philippe Berthome, to suggest some summer drinking.

They also provide glasses and ice, delivered with your drinks for your summer parties.

Jeroboams fine food and wines in Holland

Park has been with us since we launched our programme.

**Offer:** 10% discount on all purchases from both these shops, when no other promotional discounts apply.

Certain products are excluded from the discount, at the discretion of the manager:

254 Kensington High Street, London W8 6ND. t. 020 7348 0644.

96 Holland Park Ave, London W11 3RB. t. 020 7727 9359. [www.jeroboams.co.uk](http://www.jeroboams.co.uk)



Who knew that earthworms were so interesting? I had not until I heard Keiron Brown, from the Earthworm Society of Britain, give a talk at Holland Park's Ecology Centre. The talk was sponsored by The Friends, and free to those who attended.

Here are some facts:

1. The closest relative of the earthworm is the leech.
2. Worms are hermaphrodites, which means each worm has the characteristics of both sexes.
3. They do not have a head at each end, as many believe, and each half cannot regenerate independently. They have a head and a tail, and the head is always closest to the raised 'collar' known as the saddle, in the centre of the worm.
4. The saddle is part of the reproductive system, producing up to 40,000 cocoons each year.
5. Worms move, head first, using tiny hairs and bristles that provide traction.
6. The worm casts we see are worm faeces.
7. There are 31 species of earthworm in the UK, and the largest worldwide is 3 metres in length.
8. Some worms live above the ground and some below. One species even lives in trees.



*Earthworm*

9. Worms have no teeth, but have a crop and gizzard to grind down their food.
10. Seagulls, blackbirds and foxes pummel the ground to get the worms up to the surface for food.

Keiron quoted a survey which established that invertebrates increased the further you moved from central London. Holland Park is the exception, with more invertebrates than expected for a central-London area. This is because the leaf litter is left uncleared as a natural and welcome habitat. We should be proud of that.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

## Wild Plants of Holland Park

Thursday, 19 July, 6.30-8pm

Do book for botanist, Dr Mark Spender's exploration of the park's wild plants and flowers. Where are they and what are they? Some flowers are very evident, like the cow parsley and snowdrops, and some are modest and well hidden, but Mark will find them. In an evening walk around the park we will learn how to identify different plants, and he will share some fascinating botanical facts. The Friends welcome this focus on wild plants, as a couple of much loved ones have been beaten into submission by too many feet and wheels, e.g. the *Anemone blanda* at the top of the Sun Trap lawn.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



*Anemone blanda, taken in March 2011  
above the Sun Trap lawn*



Holland Park has always loved its roses. In 1623 William Lawson wrote about the orchard, suggesting it should be planted with roses, woodbine, cowslips and many other delights. The 1901 catalogue of plants lists 223 varieties including hybrids, tea, pillar, climbing and 'other'. Pink Caroline Testout roses once bordered the current Acer Walk, and the original Japanese garden had roses beside a series of linked water pools. All this can be found in *The Pleasure Grounds of Holland House*, published for The Friends.

No wonder then that the park still sports glorious roses today. The rose garden stands just south of The Orangery and is where the citrus plants were put out for the summer. Well tended and mulched, these roses flower magnificently with scent to match. We hope future plans include introduction of some of the species found in the 1901 list.

*Jennie Kettlewell*

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### Payments via the FHP website

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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.

It is now no longer possible to download an order form from the website. Paid-up members will still receive one 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).

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### Not so Fantastic Plastic

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We are searching for an environmentally friendly option for the clear plastic sleeve in which you receive your newsletter. We are nearly there, but unfortunately did not find the right solution in time for this issue. There are certain practical requirements, which all deliverers will know.



*Jennie Kettlewell*

*(All photos on this page taken in the Rose Garden)*



**Kensington Gardeners' Club** (information from [www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk](http://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk) or please contact 07949 769702).

*17-19 July*

Tour of gardens in Somerset. £350 for members, coach transport from Notting Hill Gate and entry fees included. Fully booked unless there is a cancellation.

*9 August*

Visit to Chelsea Physic Garden, with tour at 11am. Pay as you go – £9.50 for entry.

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

*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 on-line booking on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events))

*10 July from 6.30-9.00pm*

An evening at Kensington Palace. Guided tours, drinks and canapés. Kensington Society members £35. Non-members £45. Must book.

*13 Sept from 10.30am -12.30pm*

Guided walk round Notting Dale. Kensington Society members £20. Non-members £25. Must book.

*4 Oct from 4.00-5.30pm*

Gastronomic tour of a selection of restaurants and specialist food retailers, with tastings. Limited numbers. Check website for details.

## Members' E-mail Addresses

Many of you give us your e-mail addresses, for which we have two uses. Firstly comes the very occasional administrative contact, e.g. 'Have I got your house number correct?' or 'Thank you for your cheque but you have forgotten to sign it.' Though for any one person this happens very rarely, being able to use e-mail on these occasions saves us substantial time in total. Secondly, we send out reminders shortly before our five major events of

the year, also possibly for events arising after the last newsletter, or concerns we think you would want to be aware of. We have never sent more than ten general e-mails in a year, and usually many fewer.

If you do not get these e-mails, it is either because we do not have your address or because your machine blocks ours. If either is so, we would be grateful to be given your address or for you to mark us as an approved sender.

## Keeping your data safe

We have always kept our database of members for the legitimate purposes of The Friends, i.e. for the distribution of the newsletter and occasional e-mails about events and other Friends' matters. It has not been shared with anyone

outside those trustees that need to use it. We are compliant with the new data protection legislation (GDPR) which came into force in May 2018, and our Privacy Statement can be found on our website.



## 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 who have 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 3.30pm; meet outside the café. No specialist skills are required, and this is your chance to make new friends while getting healthy outdoor exercise: digging, chopping and planting in the wilder parts of the park. Tea, 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).

Thurs 5 July	ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Rhoddy Wood. Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 7 July	NW	
Sat 14 July	ES. Pond surveying: Wildlife Area Open Day	12-4pm
Thurs 19 July	ES. Wild plants of Holland Park walk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Mon 23 July - Fri 31 Aug	ES. Children's summer holiday activities. Must book. £	
Tues 24 July	<b>Pimm's in the Park</b> , marquee at east end of Dutch Garden, £18	6-8pm
Thurs 26 July	ES. Herb magic: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop in	12-4pm
Sat 28 July	ES. Damselflies and dragonflies walk (sponsored). Must book	2-4pm
Thurs 2 Aug	ES. Spot the ladybird: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop in	12-4pm
Thurs 9 Aug	ES. Brilliant butterflies: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop in	12-4pm
Sat 25 Aug	ES. Holland Park botany walk. Meet at café	2-4pm
Thurs 30 Aug	ES. Top of the crops: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop in	12-4pm
Sat 8 Sept	ES. Holland Park storytelling walk (families with children over 5 years). Must book	
Thurs 13 Sept	ES. Autumn bat walk (sponsored). Must book	7-8.30pm
Sat 22 Sept	ES. Autumn leaves, Wildlife Area. Drop in	12-4pm
Thurs 27 Sept	ES. Hedgehog talk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 13 Oct	ES. Bird-ringing demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at Wildlife Area	7-11am
Sat 20 Oct	<b>Autumn tree walk</b> . Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in Stable Yard	11-1pm
Mon 22 - Fri 26 Oct	Children's half-term holiday activities. Must book. £	
Thurs 25 Oct	Batty bats: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop-in	12-4pm
Thurs 25 Oct	<b>'Holland Park's Cup of Tea'</b> (see p.3), in the Orangery, £18	7pm
Fri 2 Nov	Children's Night Safari (4-8 year-olds). Must book. £	
Sat 3 Nov	Fungi foray (sponsored). Must book	2-4pm
Fri 9 Nov	Children's Night Safari (8-12 year-olds). Must book. £	



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

Editor and Minutes Secretary Joy Puritz

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Park Observer Andy Walker



*The cover photo was taken last summer by Alessia (Alexandra French) in the Rose Garden behind the Stable Yard*

## 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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