



*The Friends of Holland Park
Autumn 2021*



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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.

Holland House conservation

Stage 2 of the conservation programme starts in September, when Opera Holland Park has vacated the site. Not only will the surface of the Grade-1-listed building receive the sort of detailed care that contractor, Borras, accorded the east wing, but various structures, listed under the curtilage of Holland House, will be carefully conserved.



The Old Dairy

The old walls that formed the top of the old basement to the house at the rear have been deteriorating fast, though the bricks that have come loose have been carefully collected and stored by idverde. Conserving what is left of these walls means future generations will have a better understanding of what the house used to look like. The intention is to install an information board to explain the history of the walls, with the hope that park visitors will be discouraged from using them for play and exercise.

The Old Dairy

We hope that the old dairy (the room between the ice house and the café) will have the cracks in the structure repaired, to prevent further water ingress. Then we must find the funds to conserve the old tiled interior.

The upper and lower causeways

The upper walkway over the café will be resurfaced to prevent water leaking into the arcade below, and the capping on its tiled wall will be repaired to prevent water damaging the recently conserved tiles. All this



Goldcrest collecting moss for its nest

heavy rain does find its way into built structures unless they are suitably sealed. If you look up at the ceiling of the arcade outside the café, you will see a mess of tangled wiring, most of which is redundant and will be removed, with new lighting being installed to highlight the historic tiles.

The Belvedere

The new lessees of the Belvedere Restaurant did some thorough research into the history of the building before putting in their application for planning consent. Plans mainly include new kitchen equipment, removal of non-original plasterwork to reveal the beautiful old bricks, and opening up the wall between kitchen and restaurant to give a more animated atmosphere.



Green woodpecker feeding its young

Bird observations

Member, Tasso Leventis, reports that he witnessed a female green woodpecker feeding its newly fledged juvenile in the Kyoto Garden. He later encountered the female west of the North Lawn. This was in July. In June, he observed a female goldcrest collecting small patches of moss just north of the Belvedere, presumably as nesting material. He comments that this was late in the breeding season, but could represent a nest repair after a first brood. Tasso was pleased to see blackcaps' successful colonisation of the park, and reckons there are many breeding pairs. We hope to put some statistics on these welcome observations when we see the result of Bill Haines' bird surveys in the park, commissioned by the Ecology Service and paid for by the Friends.

Views of The Orangery from Forty Years ago

In the early 1980s, photography student Clare Arron, was given permission by the Council to take some atmospheric photos in the Holland Park Orangery. Clare has kindly donated her negatives to The Friends and we thought you would enjoy seeing some of her pictures.



Clare says: “Looking at these photos after all this time, takes me right back to my love of the place and falling in love with London.” In the 1980s, when she studied at the Polytechnic of Central London, she lived in a few bedsits and flats around Notting Hill and Kensington. She progressed to become a press photographer and returned to Holland Park to take photos of the Kyoto Garden for the Daily Telegraph.



Clare today

Clare asked to photograph The Orangery “just because it was such a beautiful building and seemed pretty closed up and under-used at the time. It felt very special to be in there on my own.”





Families enjoying activities in the park, organised by The Friends of Holland Park and the RBKC Ecology Service

flyers and posters as well as other means of attracting attendance from the local community. We do not seek wider publicity. Part of the enjoyment is in planning activities and when we have a pop-up desk in the park creating a buzz that attracts park visitors to come and learn what The Friends are about and what we do for Holland Park.

This would suit a well-organised person who works part time, or has recently retired, and who would enjoy working as part of a team of friendly volunteers. IT literacy in Word, Excel and PowerPoint is essential. An interest in the park is important, as is willingness to learn how The Friends' work fits into

We would welcome additional help to run some of The Friends' activities.

The sort of events we run is changing to include more guided tours and activities in Holland Park, as well as our customary talks and concerts in The Orangery. Each occasion needs careful planning, as well as involvement on the day. This volunteer role might include creating

its wider political context.

If this interests you, or you know someone who might be interested, please contact chairman, Jennie Kettlewell on jenniekettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org to find out more.

Jennie Kettlewell

The Holland Park Detectives are back!

The Friends will have a stand in the Café Yard from 10am to 4pm on Tuesday 26 October 2021, offering free activities for children to test their spotting skills and draw their favourite things in Holland Park (colour pencils provided). No need to book...just turn up!

Holland Park Detectives stand



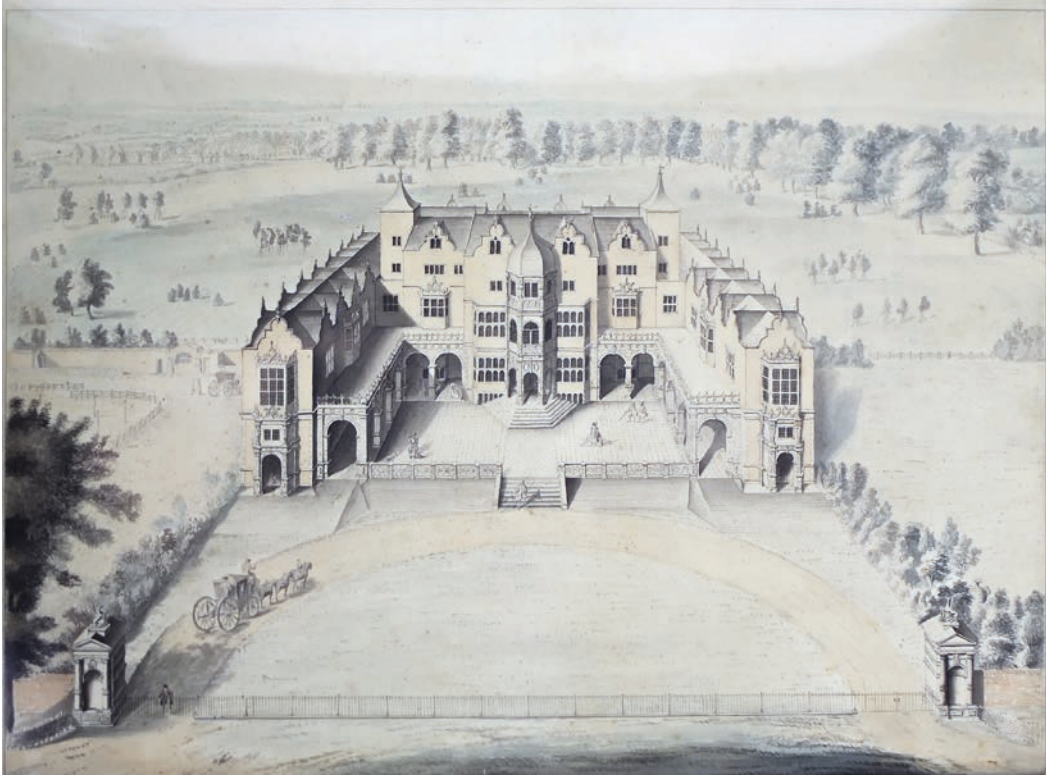
Jennie Kettlewell

Christmas Concert

Sunday, 5 December 2021, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

Put the date in your diary. It's booked and we plan to have it, so you can book a ticket now. In the unlikely event that the Covid situation changes before the end of November, we will have to make a decision at that point. We look forward to the singing of The Tallis Chamber Choir under their conductor, Philip Simms, interspersed with readings and a chance for us to sing some carols too. As usual, the evening will be rounded off with Janice Miles's delicious canapés washed down with wine. Tickets, at £22, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org) or on the enclosed order form.

Please note that the only way in and out will be via the Abbotsbury Road car park entrance.



Holland House from the south 1752, EM Davison after John Varley, private collection, with the consent of RBKC Libraries

Holland House was originally called Cope Castle, from its striking appearance and from Walter Cope who built it. It gets its present name from Cope's son-in-law, Henry Rich, who was dashing, handsome, charming, and knew all the top people. He was also arrogant, unscrupulous and always on the make. Rich was a second son and lacked the family lands and prospects that would be inherited by his elder brother Robert, Earl of Warwick, but arrogance ran in the family, and through his charm and connections he persuaded everybody to take him at his own value. At the height of his success, in the 1630s, he had an income of £10,000 a year, close on ten million in modern money, and was usually in debt. He once said that poverty was the worst thing that could happen to anybody.

If one was neither a landowner nor a rich merchant, then the best way to make money was by royal grants for collecting import duties on such things as wine, paper, or silk; underlings could be paid to do the work, and one would keep the profits oneself. Other grants such as the right to make window glass, or gold thread for luxury clothes, could be sold on to the actual makers. One might acquire the right to be the legal guardian of a rich, orphaned heir or heiress before they came of age, and there was nothing to stop one taking the income for oneself or selling the heir to somebody else. There

were many such opportunities, although never enough to satisfy everyone who wanted them, so the scramble for them was highly competitive. The king's intimates would hope to get grants directly from him. Otherwise, you might give a present to somebody like Rich who might obtain one on your behalf, or buy it from somebody who already owned it. One would now call this corruption and these transactions rackets, but at the time it was accepted that this was a clear and open way to raise the money necessary for government to carry on.

So people did all they could to get in with the king, with people who were close to him or who looked as if they were; so, to have a grand, new, fashionable house on the edge of town was a huge asset. Holland House was only an hour's ride from Whitehall where the king and the royal family lived. It was in the latest style of architecture, had beautiful grounds, and a fine southern outlook over the countryside to the Thames and the distant, Surrey hills. Rich spent a lot of money on up-dating the decoration of his house to keep it in the fashion. It was handy for stag hunting in Hyde Park and, after a good day's hunting, guests could come on to Holland House for dinner. Rich was a brilliant horseman himself, and built the largest private stables in London for his own horses and those of his guests. When still quite young, he had



*Henry Rich, 1st Earl of Holland,
studio of Daniel Mytens c. 1632,
with the consent of RBKC Libraries*

gone to France for the negotiations about Charles's marriage to Henrietta Maria, sister of the French king, and he had struck up a close friendship with the young queen, which lasted for fifteen years and was rewarded with the title of Earl Holland. He became the chief gentleman of the royal bedchamber, with close access to the king himself. On his own terms, Holland had an extremely successful career.

Three examples among many will illustrate the ways Holland worked the system. He made a good start by marrying the only daughter of William Cope, the original builder of Holland House. Cope was a clever, self-made man who had worked his own way up by attaching himself to the Cecils: to Lord Burghley and then to Burghley's son the Earl of Salisbury, successively Queen Elizabeth's and King James's chief ministers. By marrying his only daughter to Henry Rich, he got her into a top noble family, while Henry Rich got one of the best houses in London thrown in with his wife. A second example: Holland (as he was by then) persuaded the king to appoint him Chancellor of Cambridge University, in spite of having no known scholarly interests. But that enabled him to command state dinners and entertainments from the University when the Court was staying nearby for racing or hunting on Newmarket Heath, and Holland would have got the credit. A third: Holland sold the wardship (the guardianship) of the Earl of Sunderland's young children back to their own mother for £500 a year, and there was nothing that their mother or anybody could do about it.



*James I of England,
attributed to John de Cruz c. 1605.*

By the late 1630s a number of important people, including even the queen, were becoming tired of his arrogance, his self-importance and unscrupulous behaviour, but his real troubles came with the Civil War. In spite of his dashing life style and his closeness to the Royal Court, he had strong religious sympathies with the people who opposed the king (who included his own brother). He wanted to keep in with the king because royal favours were ultimately the source of his wealth, but he also needed to keep in with Parliament because, if the king's enemies won, he did not want to find himself on the wrong side and paying vast sums in fines. Throughout the Civil War he kept changing from one side to the other until ultimately both sides disowned him. Exasperated, Parliament banished him from the country. Desperate and defying his banishment, Holland tried to raise a final revolt for the king, which failed after three days. Captured and tried by the winning side, he was condemned for treason as Charles himself had been, and was executed a fortnight after the king. Some people seem to have felt some sympathy for him, intoxicated as he was by his own self-esteem, but probably not very many.

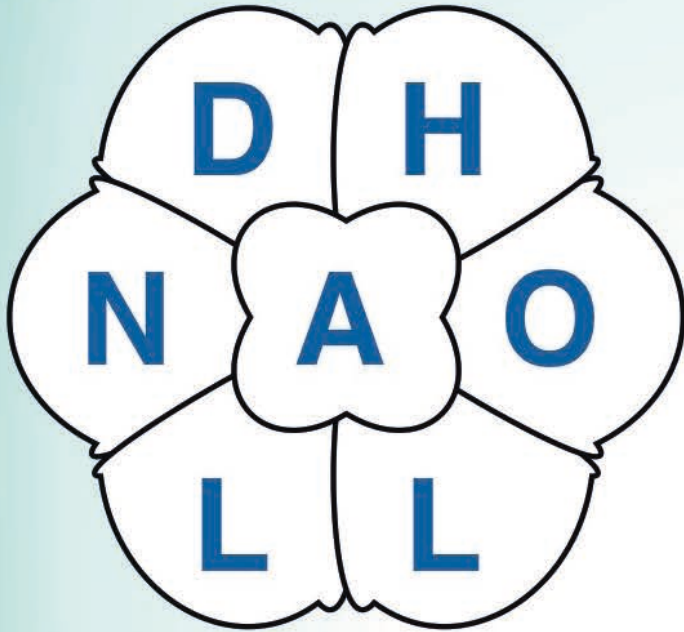
*Nicholas Cooper,
architectural historian and author*

Hi there **kids!**



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

Word puzzle



How many words can you make from the word 'Holland'. We found 20 words of three letters or more that appear in a children's dictionary.

Here's an easy one to get you started: **land**.



Omar owl says: "Did you know?"

Marble fountain

The fountain is at the Holland House end of the Dutch Garden. Many years ago, it was probably somewhere else, and we think it may have been a very smart drinking trough when there were posh stables where the Belvedere Restaurant now stands. The trough has been altered and would not now be deep enough for any horse to drink from. The fountain is a little spout you can see when you look into the upper trough where the water would have been.



Photo: Martin Warren

Adonis Blues puddling

Butterfly puddlers

Butterflies sometimes get together to enjoy a puddle or damp area but what are they doing?

In hot weather they enjoy the water which has all sorts of things in it that are good for the butterflies. It may be salt from the soil or even bits of rotting plants (yuk!). When butterflies do this it's called puddling or mud puddling.



Art in the park

Lots of children visited The Friends' stand in the Café Yard on Sunday 4th July. Some young artists drew lovely pictures of what they liked in Holland Park.

The peacock was drawn by Riccardo Tegen aged 10. The fox sleeping in the flowers was drawn by Luca del Giudice aged 11.

Thank you Riccardo and Luca. We like the peacocks in Holland Park and the foxes too.

old	non	don	all	load	hall
pon	pod	dap	oda	land	doll
lad	had	and	loan	hold	hallo

Words found

Congratulations to Michael Volpe, OBE



We were delighted when we heard that Michael Volpe had been awarded an OBE for his services to opera. He was a founder of Opera Holland Park and became General Manager as the opera developed its fine performances over the years. He decided on early retirement in 2020 to take on other challenges and is now Interim Executive Director of Iford Arts, the opera and concerts company in the south west of England.



Michael Volpe

Michael puts his heart and soul into everything he does, and it is no surprise that this has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List for 2021.

After a few early disagreements, or should I call them misunderstandings, we went on to develop a very healthy relationship between Opera Holland Park and The Friends. We did not always agree, but did not have to as we could always talk through our differences. More often we did agree, and Mike was very sensitive

to what impacted the park. He worked hard with The Friends to cut down the build-and-strike time for the opera, without having to shorten the performance period. He always rang if he was thinking about making any change about which we might have a view, and we learned to create solutions that suited both parties.

We are now working with Mike in one of his other roles: he is a consultant at the Kensington charity Nova, which aims to bring people together to create opportunities through learning and sharing. We have welcomed small groups of Nova families to come and learn about the park and to share activities, such as recognizing flower shapes.

Mike's journey to being awarded an OBE has been an interesting one, which you will discover if you read his autobiography, *Noisy at the Wrong Times*. It is well worth reading.

Jennie Kettlewell

Dave Pickup Joins the *idverde* Team

It seems no time at all, since *idverde* won their new contract to maintain the Borough of Kensington and Chelsea's parks. The contract, which started in April 2021, includes greater emphasis on horticulture, social value, carbon reduction, biodiversity, community engagement and technology, with agreed standards for performance. It has not been an easy start, with all that the weather has thrown at the plants.



David Pickup

Dave Pickup has joined the *idverde* team as Contract Manager: no small task. The title sounds like a desk job, but it is not, and he is already walking round the park and getting to know its quirks.

After starting his career in the motor industry, he joined a landscape gardening company and was soon attracted to the subject of grounds maintenance, joining *idverde* in 2010 as a supervisor in Southwark. Three years later he took up the role of contract manager with *idverde* in Hammersmith and Fulham, and that is when he first got to know Holland Park. His skills had been noted and he was approached to join the Holland Park team. Dave

commented: 'I had been in many meetings at Holland Park and was impressed by the diversity. The Dutch Garden looks stunning when on full display, but the Kyoto Garden is probably my favourite place in Holland Park, with its constant high standards and the specific way in which the maintenance is completed. There is an atmosphere and feel to the garden like nowhere else in the park.'

His contract role with *idverde* Holland Park is wide ranging and includes maintenance of the sports facilities as well as horticulture. Much of the work is behind the scenes, such as ensuring the optimum staffing to deliver the newly-won contract, and getting all the new equipment in place.

On meeting Dave, it was clear he has a grip on priorities for the many projects and tasks ahead, and he and the team have already started on the journey of raising standards to a level expected of a Grade-II-listed park. We are delighted that we now have an even stronger team to keep our park looking stunning.

Jennie Kettlewell



Small white

On the Ecology Service butterfly identification walk at the end of August we learned that butterflies in the UK are in trouble, mainly because of loss of habitat through changes in farming methods. It was good to hear that London's butterflies are faring better and, with the right conditions, we can see some beautiful species in Holland Park. Steve Bolton from Butterfly Conservation, who led the walk, is working with RBKC's Ecology team on the Big City Butterflies project, with an ambition to inspire local communities to conserve butterflies and moths in their local green spaces across inner London.



Speckled wood

Steve told us that butterflies are important as highly sensitive indicators of the health of the environment, and play crucial roles in the food chain, as well as being pollinators of plants. Many butterflies require

specific caterpillar food plants as well as a variety of nectar sources; and, as part of the Holland Park Woodland Management Plan, appropriate trees, shrubs and smaller plants will be encouraged or introduced. Caterpillars of the red admiral and comma butterflies feed on nettles, and we have plenty of those, while the speckled wood likes the nectar on plants such as brambles, in our shady woodland glades.

After inspecting the moths caught harmlessly in the overnight moth trap, we set off across the park to see what butterflies we could find. First up was a small white in the Iris Garden. Then we spotted several



Holly blue

speckled woods on the Suntrap Lawn, two of which whirled round each other as they rose high above the trees. We know we have red admiral and brimstone in the park and holly blue has been spotted.

What an achievement it would be if the management of our wild areas resulted in more holly blues so that you could see them as well.

*Text: Jennie Kettlewell and Steve Bolton;
photos: Butterfly Conservation*

Moorhens Update

5th September

There were three brand new chicks on Lord Holland's Pond this morning. The parents had been sitting for what seemed like months, and I wondered if the mother was sadly broody, having lost her first brood ages ago, and maybe sitting on infertile eggs or even an empty nest. A late brood. Remember them in your prayers, please!

David Jeffreys

So many problems with park trees start at the root. All too often, enthusiastic visitors tread all round the tree, compacting the soil and starving the roots of oxygen. Compaction caps the soil into a hard crust and starves the roots of water so that, even when there are torrential rain storms, the water just runs off into a drain. What a waste!



Indian bean tree

Fortunately, we can give the trees in Holland Park a better chance by removing the problem of compacted roots through aeration and mulching. The trees really do take notice and start pushing water and nutrients from the soil out into the far reaches of their canopy. The Indian Bean Tree, on the lawn west of The Belvedere, was thoroughly miserable as a result of compaction, resulting in many leafless branches. After a little TLC by Bartlett's Tree Experts, the tree was motivated to do what it was designed to do, and the canopy is now a burgeoning head of healthy green leaves.

The two areas next in line for decompaction are the whole of the thinly-grassed area west of The Belvedere and also the Daffodil Lawn, which lies at a confluence of paths just south of the D Garden.

With climate change increasingly evident, our locally grown native trees will no longer be able to survive, so we have to try new species, bred in warmer climates. How will they react to the pests and diseases we have

here, and from which they might not be equipped to defend themselves? We must try a range of new types of tree, because no one seems to know which species will stand up to our increasing extremes of weather. If we plant a wide variety of trees, we can assume at least some will survive.

All this is context to creating a woodland management plan for Holland Park. We

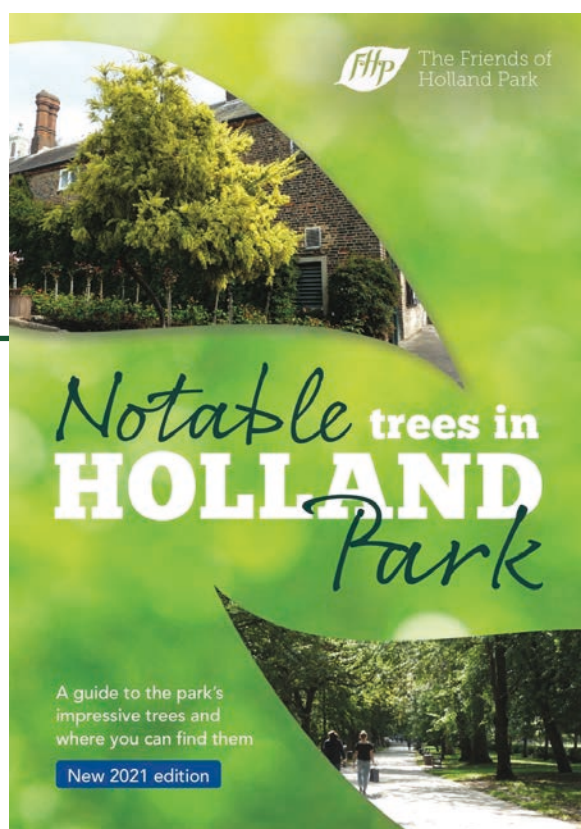
know we need to reduce the over-exuberant holly and the height of the ivy on trees, and we know we need to leave areas of clear space in the tree canopy so that light can penetrate to allow the under-storey to re-grow. We also know that some areas will benefit from coppicing and that we need to plant new trees to replace those that have died. The recent woodland survey has confirmed all of that. The big question exercising many estate owners and parks management is what trees should we now plant that can better adapt to our changing climate and will be around to delight future generations.

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell

Tree Guide – new version!

The popular Guide to Notable Trees in Holland Park has been updated and is available for you to buy. Sadly, a number of the trees in the last version died, so we have added new trees, all with accurate leaf drawings by Nina Barranca and delightful descriptions by Rhoddy Wood. Get your copy of the guide from The Friends' website, or from Margaret Rhodes on thorpemorieux@gmail.com or 020 7792 1265.

Price £6 plus postage.



A standing order is an instruction given to their bank by the payee to pay a fixed sum to a fixed recipient on the same date (s) each year; it can only be changed by the payee, not the recipient.

We are very grateful to all those members who pay their subscriptions to the Friends by this method, as it saves our volunteer administrators much work in sending out reminders, and ensures the regular payment of members' dues. It saves members having to remember and take action each year. It must suit many people because for a long time the percentage of members paying this way held steady at about 67%, which is just over two thirds. That was when everyone joining filled in a membership application form on one sheet of paper, which

included a section for a standing order. Nowadays most people join on our website: easier for many, but it does not and cannot include a standing order. (It does include instructions for doing so, but they entail additional action by the donor which most neglect to take.) The result: a mere 4% sign for a standing order.

If you do not have a standing order, you will find a yellow sheet in this newsletter. Make it your good deed of the day to fill it in and return to Graham at the address given. The membership number is optional, but helps ensure that your payment is correctly recorded. Your reward: you will not have to remember this December or ever again. Thank you.

Rhoddy Wood

Please Attend our AGM at 7pm on 13 October 2021

This year's AGM will be via Zoom, as we thought it would be easier for all, and it worked well last year, once we had solved the problem of the access link. We learned from that and will do better this year.

The official business will be quick, and we will spend most of the time explaining current challenges in Holland Park and what we are doing about them. There will be plenty time for you to ask the questions that you have.

We need as many members as possible to attend, as we will carry out the voting (re-election of trustees, approval of 2020 accounts etc.) at the meeting, rather than in advance. At least 30 votes are needed for the result to be valid. It will be a bit like networking with other Friends, but without the glass of wine!

The 2020 accounts were published in our summer newsletter and can be viewed on our website: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org All you need to do to attend the AGM is e-mail jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org, not later than Friday, 9 October 2021, giving your full name. You will then be sent the link to the Zoom meeting. It is always helpful if you can let us have your questions in advance, but it is not essential.

Covid has changed many things, but Holland Park is as busy as ever, with even more challenges. The Friends continue to have an important role in working with the Council, the parks police and with *idverde*. It is impressive just how many projects have been completed and are under way, though we can all see that there is more to do.

We look forward to 'seeing' you on 13 October.



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a MAGNUM of wine!

Pop in and see Kathy and the team at
96 Holland Park Ave, London,
or call on 020 7727 9359
Jeroboams.co.uk

In 2019, the Friends organised guided tours of Holland Park, looking at its History and its Decorative Arts. Leila Sukiur and I were the two fortunate Blue Badge Guides recruited to provide them. One of the pleasures of being a guide is doing the background research and assembling the information into an entertaining tour, and it is even more fun doing it together with a friend (Leila was the first person I met on the first day of our guide training course!). But the biggest pleasure is putting the hard work into action with a real live group; every group is different, with different levels of knowledge and different directions of interest, and this feeds back to make every tour different as well; and with the Friends, there are always people in the group with particular knowledge to add to and illuminate the stories we tell.



A Blue Badge tour

Park Opera tent, which conceals the front of the old house, has been a challenge, but amply compensated by the huge screens erected by the Opera on the North front, with photographs of the house in its heyday. Thanks also go to the Youth Hostel, which has allowed us access to the East front, as shown in the photo. The Friends have also arranged tours for Dalgarno Trust, a local charity that

works with the local community to promote health, wellbeing and inclusion.

- **Sat 23 Oct. 10.30am**
Holland Park decorative arts tour.
Rowan Freeland
- **Tues 9 Nov. 10.30am**
Holland Park history tour.
Leila Sukiur.

We had done one cycle of tours in Autumn 2019 and were discussing dates for Spring 2020 when Covid came and knocked us all into lockdown. One advantage, however, has been that we have returned to the tours this August with a broader perspective and, perhaps, greater focus. Working around the Holland

To book a ticket at £10, visit www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or call Margaret Rhodes on 020 7792 1265. The meeting point will be shown on the ticket.

Rowan Freeland

Christmas Cards

The Kyoto Garden is one of the most distinct areas of Holland Park and is loved and admired by many visitors. So we make no apology for showing a new picture of it on this year's Christmas card for you to share with your friends. It has been painted by Catherine Masterman, who has produced successful interpretations of the park for several years now.



We will hold a ready supply of these cards in both the standard 152 mm x 197 mm format at £10 for a pack of ten, and the smaller 118 mm x 168 mm at £9. We will also make up mixed packs of old designs of Holland Park at £6.50, which will be very

largely of big ones in at least three or four different designs. These can all be very quickly delivered. There is also a broad range of other views in the brochure. It would be a great help if you could order early, even the new design, so that the publisher knows what initial print run he needs. If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp) our delivery is free, but beyond that we have to charge an additional £1.60 per 10 cards. Please note that sending the order to us instead of directly to Mountbatten gets the Friends an extra discount, unless overprinting is required.

Rhoddy Wood

It was sad to say goodbye to Sergeant Chris Ellinson when he retired in July to work with the community nearer to his home in Kent. A group of police and park management colleagues, as well as Rhoddy Wood and Jennie Kettlewell from The Friends, met in the Stable Yard to thank him for all he has done to help keep Holland Park safe. Speeches and presentations brought back memories of his 13 years with the RBKC Parks Police, before which he served with the Met. His role involved community interaction, as well as policing, and he was very good at both.



Chris Ellinson

Taking over, as one of two police sergeants in the borough Parks Police, is Arron Haynes, who has been promoted from police constable to take on his new role. Most of you will recognise Arron from his patrols in the park, and we wish him well now that he will be leading one of the two police teams. The other team continues to be led by Sergeant Helen Tilbury. The Parks Police work long hours and seven days a week, so the two teams alternate to provide cover. And of course they cover all the public parks in the borough.

Jennie Kettlewell

Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Autumn 2021

Live events are back, and it is a great pleasure to be able to meet up with like-minded colleagues once again.

Kensington Gardeners' Club

Check details on www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk.

To book, e-mail susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com or call 020 7727 3897.

Tues 5 Oct. Visit to RHS Wisley in Surrey. Travel on coach from Notting Hill Gate. Gardeners' Club members £38, non-members £45. Booking essential.

Talks: In-person lectures have restarted, with inspiring speakers on gardens and gardening. Check the website for dates and venues. Non-members £5. Please book.

The Kensington Society

Events were put on hold due to the pandemic.

Further information on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events

Wed. 8 Dec. Kensington Society Christmas drinks in The Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Hornton Street. 6.30 for 7pm. Members of the Kensington society free, non-members £10. Rsvp to, events@kensingtonsociety.org.

RBKC Active for Life

Full details on www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sport-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.



Joy Puritz

The Kyoto pond in autumn (above)



Joy Puritz

Vine (Vitis coignetiae) in the Wildlife Area in autumn (left)



The Friends would like to express their heartfelt thanks to the Parks Police for working even harder than usual to help keep park visitors safe during the challenge of the pandemic. You are appreciated.

The cover photo of an Acer palmatum was taken by Rhoddy Wood in the Kyoto Garden on 3 December 2005. N.B. Many apologies to Friend Lisa MacHale, who took the cover photo of irises and the arcade for the summer newsletter. This was wrongly attributed to Rhoddy Wood.

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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