

The Friends of Holland Park
Autumn 2018



JOHN WILCOX & Co.

ESTATE AGENTS AND VALUERS



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Holland Park's Cup of Tea



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

There are many reasons to come to the Friends' events: fascinating talks about the park and related subjects, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones over a glass of wine, and Janice Miles' very popular canapés: all in the very special atmosphere of the listed Holland Park Orangery.

This October we are in for a real treat, both because of the subject and because, having attended one of his tutorials, I can vouch for the fact that Jonathon Jones is an exceptionally engaging speaker.



Jonathon Jones

Holland Park has a long history of growing glorious camellias, a subject about which Jonathon knows a great deal because he established the first British tea plantation (*Camellia sinensis*) at the Tregothnan Estate in Cornwall. He joined them as head gardener just over 20 years ago and has since 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 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. We are fortunate to catch Jonathon

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 your newsletter, or book on the Friends of Holland Park website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org.

Jennie Kettlewell

Christmas Concert

Sunday, 9 December 2018, at 7.30pm, in the Orangery

Please be sure to write this date in your diary; or why not book now for our most popular event of the year. The excellent Tallis Chamber Choir, conducted by Philip Simms, will be performing for us again, mixing carols with seasonal readings. It is good to know that our annual concert is also a favourite of the choir: something they never want to miss, with its special atmosphere in a lovely room

with an enthusiastic audience adding their voices from time to time. It is hard to know who gets the most fun out of it all. To cap it all we have Janice Miles's mouth-watering canapés with a glass of wine or two to look forward to. Tickets, at £22, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org) or on the enclosed order form.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteers

The volunteers usually meet on the third Saturday of each month (*see Dates for your Diary*), with a brief to carry out tasks to help with the maintenance and conservation of the woodland and meadow areas of the park. Tasks might include clearing vegetation, meadow management, scything, dead-hedging and planting. These work days are free to attend and aimed at adult participants.

The volunteers benefit the park, get a day in the open, meet like-minded people and have some fun too. Member of the Friends and regular Holland Park volunteer, Richard Kulczycki, was obviously having fun when he helped clear out the Wildlife Area pond. If you are interested in volunteering, contact ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk or ring 020 7938 8186.



Jennie Kettlewell

Richard in the Wildlife Area pond

Café Yard

At last the café yard is finished and now boasts 170 seats, some of which will be removed during the quieter winter season. The area under the western arches has been opened up and provides a shady space to enjoy a cold drink, coffee or meal. Big planters have been borrowed temporarily from the stable yard to provide at least some softening. We hope a couple of small, leafy trees will be potted up into large containers to provide a pretty green setting, appropriate for a park. It would be good to see some flowers too. We hear that delivery lorries are being directed across the front of Holland House in order to turn at the Duchess of Bedford Gate. This is disappointing as a great deal of work has been done over the years to reduce traffic in the park.



The café yard

Holland House conservation

The conservation plan for Grade 1-listed Holland House is being drawn up in three stages. Work on Stage 1, the roof and facings of the main building, should commence in autumn 2018. Work on the East Wing, leased to the youth hostel, is scheduled for 2019 as Stage 2. Stage 3 will cover the walkways, though it is not yet known if this includes conservation of the tiles. We are delighted to hear that conservation is at last going to happen as it is very much needed and also overdue.



The Road to the House terrace

Thanks due to Opera Holland Park

When planning consent was sought for the opera's ancillary buildings for the years 2018-2020, the application was for the opera to occupy the site from 12 March to the end of September, in line with their lease. In the consent report it was noted that there was an agreement between The Friends of Holland Park and Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park (OHP), to work together to reduce the build and deconstruct time so that the Holland House terrace could be open to the public for longer each year. I can report that just over four weeks has been shaved off the working time this year, without affecting performance dates. There is no promise of precise timing for next year because it is weather dependent, but I feel there is enough trust to know that we are well on the way to having the terrace open to the public for longer each year than it has been in the past. Many thanks are due to you Michael and to Nic Watson, Operations Manager of OHP.

Belvedere tower

The renovation work has taken far longer than expected and the end date is still not clear. Not only would we all like a view of the elegant tower on this listed building, but I think many will be pleased to see the contractor's compound and equipment removed



The Belvedere tower seen from the Dutch Garden

from the car park, where it takes up an unacceptable amount of space.

Adventure playground

Planning consent for the much needed improvements has been granted and work, including drainage channels to prevent flooding, is due to start this October. The installations will be of natural wood, rather than the current gaudy constructions, so they fit more appropriately into the park environment. It is after all a woodland play

area and not a city centre landscape. This is a fundamental overhaul rather than cosmetic change, so it is claimed that the resulting playground should last at least 20-25 years. Consequently the topographical and installation work will take time, and the play area may not be open again until April 2019. Please look out for signage in the park, which will keep you informed on progress.

Cricket nets

Planning consent has been granted for improved cricket nets on the sports field. The bowler's run up will be incorporated into the structure to prevent a line of worn grass on the field. The whole construction will enclose a three-bay practice facility

with an artificial grass surface. The cricket cages will be surrounded by a 3-metre security fence to prevent misuse and damage which, sad to say, is a problem with the current nets. It will also ensure stray cricket balls do not endanger others in the area. The work is due to start sometime in October. Again, please watch out for information signs in the park.

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell

New offer for Friends: Chakra Restaurant

The flavourful North Indian cuisine with Punjabi influences is not the only attraction of this gem of a restaurant, tucked away in Holland Street. A 'chakra' is a centre of spiritual and healing power within the body and this is represented in the jewel colours and fabrics of the interior, so that the environment, as well as the food, gives pleasure. The focus is on dishes cooked in the tandoor, as well as a selection of dishes from several other regions of the sub-continent. Menus change regularly and include Indian brunch and afternoon tea. There is an outside terrace.

Offer: 25% discount on all food in the restaurant (but not on drinks or take-away).



David Clack

Dishes at Chakra

33c Holland Street, Kensington, London W8 4LX. t. 020 7229 2115. www.chakra.restaurant.



Black poplar by the Copse

If a human gets sick, we do not say ‘Too bad. It’s inevitable. Not worth doing anything’. We go to the doctor and get treatment. Why would you not do the same with a tree, especially when it has the potential for a long life.

This small black poplar is planted next to the Commonwealth Copse, just north of the Design Museum. It was given a robust metal cage to keep it safe. But it did not: it got sick. On a visit to the tree with Bartlett Tree Experts in November 2017, we found a bad case of rust on the leaves, which is eventually fatal. There was damage where the cage had bitten into the trunk.

Bartlett removed the outgrown cage, aerated and mulched around the tree, then sprayed the leaves. By June 2018, some six months later, the tree was growing lustily, with healthy green leaves. ‘Dr Bartlett’ prescribed one further spray during the growth season, and that should fix it. This work has been funded by The Friends.

This *Populus nigra* ssp. *Betulifolia* was donated as a cutting by Roger Jefcoate CBE in 2007. The species is our rarest native tree, not to be confused with hybrid black poplars. If tended well, it has the potential to grow to 110 feet. A male tree was chosen so as not to inflict the floating seeds on local asthma sufferers.

This is now one happy little tree. Duplicate that many times over and we will have a very healthy tree stock in Holland Park with which to delight our descendants. So far, we have treated 28 trees. There are some 22,000 in the park.



Leaves of the black poplar

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell

Pimm’s in the Park

This year we had better luck with the weather than last: it was a lovely sunny evening on Tuesday, 24 July. Thanks to Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park, we again had the use of the marquee overlooking the Dutch Garden and, it being dry, we were able to enjoy being on the terrace as well, for an even better view. We were very pleased to see so many new faces, and it was a good opportunity to talk to members, and to hear their views. Plentiful and tasty canapés were enjoyed, washed down by a refreshing Pimm’s concoction.



Sandra French

Pimm’s in the evening sunshine

We thought readers might be interested in Jennie Kettlewell's story, 'A Happy Little Tree' (see page 6). Back in 2007, your secretary wrote an article for this newsletter, explaining the difference between our native Black Poplar, *Populus nigra* ssp. *betulifolia* (with a birch-like leaf) and its many hybrids with the American Cottonwood, *Populus deltoides*, collectively known as hybrid black poplars. Our wild tree used to be plentiful, but clearing of the land for agriculture has reduced it to a rarity in the wild, and most planted specimens have been one of the hybrids because they grow more quickly to a greater height and are therefore useful for screening. (In 2007 only one true black poplar was known in Kensington and Chelsea.) Even these have become less common because the fluff from female trees is irritating for asthma sufferers. However, poplars are most easily propagated by sticking a branch in the ground, and a male cutting will always produce a male tree, which has no fluff. There are a number of male clones among the hybrids and most of the surviving wild trees are male.

An alert member read our article and put us in touch with Roger Jefcoate, a man of some distinction in other fields, who had a passion for preserving and multiplying our native black poplar. He lived in the Vale of Aylesbury where the damp, rich soil supported one of the few remaining populations of wild poplars, all of them male so they could not reproduce by seed but provided a plentiful supply of cuttings that could be planted. He had already donated pieces of his trees to Buckingham Palace, most of the other palaces and the Royal Parks. He was keen to give one to Holland Park, and guided us to the position best



Roger Jefcoate planting cuttings, with the Mayor

suited to the species' requirements: damp and open. The bottom of the sports field fitted best.

Four years later, 2012, was to be the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and Roger approached us for help with a project. He wanted to celebrate by giving a young tree as a rooted cutting to every borough in London. So, in November 2010, in the presence of our mayor, he set

in train the planting of over 40 cuttings in a bed prepared on the site of the old squash and petanque courts near the North Gate of Holland Park. Over winter the cuttings grew roots, and in December 2011 Holland Park hosted a grand ceremony where Richard Attenborough presented a young tree to every mayor in London, in time for the Jubilee.



Richard Attenborough presenting poplars to the London mayors



Black poplar

Distinguishing between mature native and hybrid black poplars:

Trunk:	Native: bottom slightly leaning Hybrid: very straight
Branches:	Native: many, ends arching down with upright shoots Hybrid: few and upright
Bark:	Native: corrugations twisted round bosses Hybrid: corrugations very straight and vertical
Galls:	Native: spiral galls on leaf stalks Hybrid: no galls

Text and photos: Rhoddy Wood



Kids can be Holland Park Detectives!



On Tuesday 23 October, children can imagine they are Holland Park detectives, spotting things in the park and putting a tick against the pictures on the specially designed activity sheet.

When they have found as many as they can, they can come and claim their Holland Park Detective badge from the Friends of Holland Park desk in the Café Yard. Join in or just drop by and have a chat. Please mention this to any of your friends

and family who are not members of the Friends, as they will not get this newsletter. You do not have to be a member to join in the fun, and it is free.

The Friends will be there from 10.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m., with kids' activity sheets (free) to hand out, information on the park, and copies of the Children's Guide to Exploring Holland Park for sale. The guide is packed with fabulous things to discover, interesting facts and lots of fun activities. At 36 pages it will provide many hours of happy occupation, and all for only £5. Buy it at the Friends' desk on 23 October, or order a copy from our secretary, Rhoddy Wood, Tel. 020 7602 0304/ rhoddy.wood@virgin.net, or order it on The Friends' website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org).

Crab Apple Jelly



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or call on 020 7727 9359
Jeroboams.co.uk



At the time of writing (early September) it is not yet clear whether this year is or is not a good one for apples. We need the small green bitter kind that makes your mouth dry up if you bite into a raw one, but miraculously turns into tangy red jelly when cooked. Be assured that we will search for them later this month, so when you read this do ring 020 7602 0304 to place your orders. Supplies are always soon exhausted.

Rhoddy Wood

Bird Feeders

Have you ever wondered how the bird feeders in the park are kept topped up and ready for the birds to dine? The answer is that David Jeffreys, member of The Friends and a former treasurer, has been quietly lugging his buckets of feed around the park early in the morning. He has also given us a regular alert about what birds have been seen in the park, so we know what to look for during the Nature Walk on the first Saturday of each month. David feels it is time he passed the task to someone else, and trustee, Joy Puritz, immediately offered to take over.

A very big 'Thank You', David, for your loyal work and your dedication in fighting off the squirrels.

Hi there **kids!**



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

Test your knowledge of Holland Park's wildlife by having a go at our fantastic crossword



Freddie Fox says:
Did you know?

Holland House in Holland Park was built over 400 years ago, in 1605. It was called Cope's Castle. Only part of it is left now because it was damaged in World War II. See if you can find it and imagine that you lived there all those years ago. What would you have spotted looking out of one of the windows?

Question:

What do you get if you cross a duck with a firework?
Answer at bottom of page.

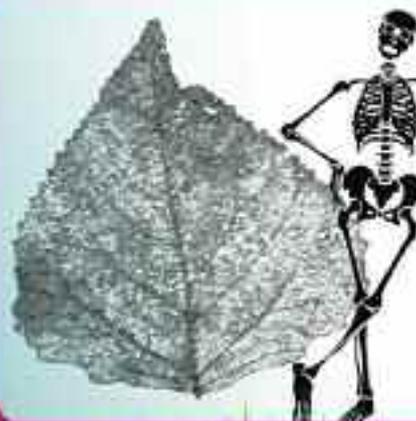


ACROSS

DOWN

- 4. Dog-sized animal with red/brown fur (5)
- 5. Friendly bird with red breast (5)
- 6. Small animal with grey fur and bushy tail (8)
- 8. Big grey bird that fishes in ponds (5)

- 1. Small rodent with pointy nose and long tail (5)
- 2. Black feathered bird that lives on water (7)
- 3. Bird often seen picking up crumbs in café (6)
- 7. Was a tadpole when it was young (4)



Can you find a skeleton leaf?

In autumn, leaves on some trees die and fall off. These trees are called deciduous trees. Most of these leaves rot away and get mixed in with the earth. A few leaves do a very clever thing. All the green bits rot away and only the network of veins is left, which look very pretty and delicate. When you walk in Holland Park in autumn, see if you can find a skeleton leaf on the ground. This one is a leaf from a poplar tree found near the Ecology Centre.



How Different was the Park 40 Years ago?

In 1978 Janie Burford wrote her degree dissertation on Holland Park, in support of her postgraduate diploma in landscape architecture.

I met up with Janie on a very hot day in Holland Park to hear her thoughts on the park, then and now. Her study covered the history, recreation facilities, ecology, footpaths and glades of the park. Much of the history in the study is well known to us, so what fascinated me was the account of the description of Holland Park in the 1970s, a period for which there are few records.



Rose Garden in the 1970s



Rose Garden in 2018

Compared with what we see today, some of the newly planted areas, such as the Rose Garden and beyond, looked bare so that one was much more aware of the houses in Ilchester Road. We must remember that in the '70s the park was still being reclaimed from the overgrown wilderness it had become during World War II, and much of the planting was relatively new. By contrast, the woodlands had survived with little attention, as woodlands do.

Janie made several observations when she originally studied the park, many of which ring bells today:

- Wear and tear caused by constant use was eroding path edges and areas of grass, leaving barren dusty ground. With ever-increasing foot traffic, that is even truer over forty years later, The Friends are discussing with Park Management what preventative measures can be taken.
- She deplored the tidying up of the woodlands by raking leaves from under trees, removing fallen trees and planting exotic species. We do not do that now, and The Forestry Commission recommend managing our woodlands with minimal intervention and avoidance of 'woodland gardening'. They are currently advising on

creating a Woodland Management Plan for the park.

- She had written that she also deplored the use of tarmac in what are essentially the estate grounds of a Grade II-listed house. The Friends very definitely share that view today and feel other path surface options should be explored.

- Janie asked about measures taken to nourish what looked

like impoverished, compacted soil in many areas of the park. We wondered why, in Holland Park, dead leaves are cleared from around trees, when Kew determinedly rakes them back under the trees because they provide the ideal nourishment. If you run a mower over the fallen leaves, the bits are small enough for the worms to take back underground, just as they do at Kew.

The good news is that, back in 1978, Janie had criticised the lack of a management plan for the park, or any sense that its future was important. I was able to assure her that some attitudes had changed and that The Friends had co-operated with the hard-working Park Management Team to produce a Borough Parks Strategy and a Holland Park Management Plan. Conservation and sustainability are at the heart of the plan so that the current stewards of the park leave a fitting legacy for future generations.



Lord Holland statue in the 1970s, without a pond

We ran out of time to discuss ecology, and the contribution made by Stephen Rettig, co-author of an article on Holland Park in a landscape-architects' journal. We will pick that up in a future newsletter. The dissertation was so intriguing that I sought permission to take a copy of the 100-page work, and I thank Dave Walker from the RBKC Local Studies Department for copying it onto a memory stick so that The Friends can have it permanently as an

(Contd on page 11)

At its simplest, the park is a safe green space for the enjoyment and wellbeing of the local community. That is not to say we do not welcome visitors, of course we do, and they will come anyway, but primarily the residents of the densely populated borough of Kensington and Chelsea need this green space so that they can get out into the fresh air, exercise, walk the dog, let the children play, or just sit under a tree and reflect.



Beautiful trees and flowers to the east of Acer Walk

Increasing health problems such as obesity, mental disorders and the effects of air pollution make a leafy, well maintained park an essential plank in a council's health programme. There is increasing and well documented evidence of the health benefits of natural green space, with research claiming that time spent among trees can lower cortisol levels, boost the immune system and reduce anxiety.

That means we must protect the park's woodlands, keeping them as natural and beautiful as we can while resisting the urge to tidy them up or add unnatural structures and surfaces. Creating a Woodland Management Plan, with advice from the Forestry Commission, should add a layer of protection, and the regular volunteer group can help carry out some of the tasks determined under the light-touch maintenance.

Also much enjoyed and good for the soul are the formal flower gardens, in which we all take great pride. Several of our members have commented on unprecedented weediness this summer, and the gardeners themselves were concerned that they had insufficient resource to keep up with their tasks. They, more than anyone, take great pride in the gardens and in the work they do to create stunning displays. The problem was a significant temporary shortage in the number of gardeners. This is now partly resolved, and many of the beds have already been weeded and look much better. Prevention is better than cure and new

planting strategies are being discussed that will improve the situation in future, especially in the Dutch Garden, Dry Garden and Acer Walk. The Iris Garden has already been emptied and it will take time to clean invasive weeds from the soil, before replanting in a lower maintenance style.

You might ask why we cannot just spray the weeds with chemical weed killers. The council's policy is to keep chemical treatments in

Holland Park to the absolute minimum, and they are only ever applied by trained experts.



Flowerbed in the Dutch Garden

The Friends are very supportive of Holland Park's fine gardening team. They work hard but can only achieve so much in the time they have. We must do all we can to support low maintenance planting options while keeping standards high for the enjoyment and wellbeing of the local community and visitors from further afield.

Jennie Kettlewell

How Different was the Park 40 Years ago? (Contd)

invaluable reference. Thanks also to Janie for sharing her most interesting dissertation with us.

Landscape architect Janie Burford has impressive form when it comes to the conservation of estates and parks. She undertook the very successful rescue and restoration of a completely derelict Painshill Park in Surrey (now council-

owned) and is now a trustee of the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust. She is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and feels that her background in fine art has contributed greatly to her landscape work.

Jennie Kettlewell

Works to re-arrange the road in front of the café led to a summer of disruption for café users, and at the time of writing (1 September) the area is still a little raw and with temporary screens. In time we hope it will be altogether greener. Our Christmas card this year shows how it will look once it has settled in and is attractive in its own right. We will hold a ready supply of these cards in both the standard 152 mm x 197 mm format at £9.50 the pack of ten, and the small



The new café yard, by Catherine Masterman

118 mm x 168 mm at £8.00. 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 4 or 5 different designs. These can all be very quickly delivered. It would be a great help if you could order early, even the new design, so that the publisher knows what initial printing he needs. If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp) our delivery is free, but beyond that we have to charge an additional £1.40 per

10 cards.

There are a number of other designs illustrated in the enclosed catalogue and on the website www.mbcards.co.uk. Indeed there is a choice of at least 15 cards by four different artists, portraying different aspects of Holland Park: surely enough for everyone to find something they like. We appreciate it if you also order these through us, as we get an extra discount, though Mountbatten can give you free delivery anywhere in the

UK. Overprinted cards must be ordered from Mountbatten. We do get a small donation if you fill in the appropriate line asking which charity you would like to support.

All cards will have the standard greeting 'With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year' unless you ask for them to be blank.

Do avoid that last minute panic by ordering now.

Bird-Ringing Demo: See Birds Close up

The bird-ringing demonstration is a great opportunity to see some of Holland Park's birds close up. Once a bird has been safely caught in a mist net, a specially trained ringer will hold the bird gently to show detail of the markings, wing feathers and how the ring is painlessly attached. The bird's size and weight are logged, along with the number on the ring, allowing useful information to be tracked on each ringed bird. Drop in to Holland Park's Wildlife Enclosure in the north of the park, Saturday, 13 October from 7.00 a.m. to 11.00 a.m. Bring the children: this event, which is sponsored by The Friends, is great for all ages.



Male and female blackcaps

Did you Know?



Carrion crow in the park

One of several collective nouns for carrion crows is a 'murder'. This appears to be based on old folk tales, and there are several interpretations. One folk tale tells that crows gather to decide the capital fate of another crow. Another tale claims that crows are an omen of death because, as scavengers, they are generally associated with dead bodies.

Imaginative collective nouns have survived from the middle ages, when the words were wonderfully descriptive. Keep your eyes open for a murder of crows.



Kensington Gardeners' Club (information from www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk or please contact 07949 769702)

6 October

Tour of Champion Trees in Kew Gardens. Meet at 11.00 a.m. Pay as you go, including entry to Kew. Must book.

20 October

Prize giving for 2018 garden competition. Slide presentation and afternoon tea. 2.00 p.m. for 2.30 p.m. in basement lecture theatre, Kensington Central Library. Free for members and £5 for guests.

17 November

Illustrated talk by Andrew Brogan, creator of Henstead Exotic Garden, Suffolk. Afternoon tea and plant sale. 2.00 p.m. for 2.30 p.m. in basement lecture theatre, Kensington Central Library. Free for members and £5 for guests.

Opera Holland Park (all information from www.operahollandpark.com. Tickets available from 0300 999 1000)

14 November

Black tie Gala Performance in aid of Opera Holland Park's *Inspire* outreach programme. 7.30 p.m. Drapers' Hall, Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DQ. £260 for a seat or £2,600 for a table of 10.

The Kensington Society (all information and online booking on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events)

4 Oct. from 4.00-5.30 p.m.

Gastronomic tour of a selection of restaurants and specialist food retailers, with tastings. Limited numbers. Meet 3.00 p.m. by the flower stall at South Kensington tube station. Numbers limited to 15 so must book. Check website for details.

26 Nov. 6.30 p.m.

Workshop, hosted by members of the RBKC Planning Dept., to explain recent changes, notably the successful Chelsea Pilot, re monitoring of designated construction sites. Small Hall at Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St.

6 Dec. 6.30 for 7.00 p.m.

Carol concert with a choir from St Mary Abbots School. Mayor's Parlour, Kensington Town Hall. Tickets £10.

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, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org. 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.



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, 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. 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, call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk.

Sat 6 Oct	NW	
Sat 13 Oct	ES. Bird-ringing demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at Wildlife Area	7-11am
Sat 20 Oct	Autumn tree walk. 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	ES. Batty bats: Ecology Centre Open Afternoon. Drop-in	12-4pm
Thurs 25 Oct	' Holland Park's Cup of Tea ' (see p.3), in the Orangery, £18	7pm
Fri 2 Nov	Children's Night Safari (4-8 year-olds). Must book. £	
Sat 3 Nov	NW	
Sat 3 Nov	Fungi foray (sponsored). Must book	2-4pm
Fri 9 Nov	Children's Night Safari (8-12 year-olds). Must book. £	
Sat 1 Dec	NW	
Sun 9 Dec	Christmas Concert: Tallis Chamber Choir in the Orangery £22 (see p.3)	7.30pm

Gift Aid

We are very grateful to all those members (about 60%) who have signed Gift Aid declarations for us, as it means that all their donations and subscriptions are worth 25p in the pound more, courtesy of HMRC, and without cost to themselves. Those members who have joined online might not yet have had an opportunity to sign, so this is an

invitation to do so if you pay tax in the UK. There might also be others who have not signed but could now do so. Please read the form carefully to ensure you qualify. If no form is enclosed with this newsletter, it means that you have already signed or told us that you are not eligible. Thank you.

E-mail Addresses

btinternet; btopenworld; talk 21 and maybe btconnect

We try to send e-mail reminders of our major events and the occasional one that is arranged after this newsletter has gone to press, such as the recent opening of the Holland House Terrace. We never send more than about eight a year, and many people appreciate this service, judging by the response we get. If you are not getting these reminders

either we do not have your address or your computer is not accepting our messages. The servers listed above now operate tighter controls. So, especially if you are with them, please try to find out how to mark our messages as welcome: this is not something we can do for you.



President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

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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 the swamp cypress by the Orangery was taken by Alessia on 12 December 2017.

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.

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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