

Report of the 2020 Annual General Meeting

The Friends' AGM was held on 21 October 2020 via Zoom. Sir Angus Stirling welcomed everyone to the meeting, and Nigel Brockmann reported that members had, by prior vote, approved the minutes of the 2019 meeting and the 2019 accounts.

The **Trustees' Report for 2019** was presented by Jennie Kettlewell, the main achievements being:

- A start made on preparation for the much needed conservation work on Grade-1-listed Holland House, following its placement on the Historic England At Risk Register.
- The Friends paid £4,782.50 for expert conservation of the Florentine tiles under the arches in front of the café.
- The Friends published a guide to 50 birds found in Holland Park. Many of the photos were provided by member, Tasso Leventis, who kindly donated the cost of production.
- £3,000 match-funding paid for restoration of the West Woodland Enclosure.
- Chestnut fencing erected around trees above the Sun Trap lawn and the margin of the North Lawn to prevent further erosion and compaction, at a cost of £7,303.
- The annual tree health programme, carried out by Bartletts at a cost of £4,060.
- Once again, The Friends sponsored the Ecology Service walks and talks.

In all, £30,833.75 was paid in grant aid to Holland Park during 2019.

On behalf of Secretary, Rhoddy Wood, it was reported that membership had marginally increased year-on-year, being 1,100 by December 2019. Members were thanked for their loyalty and interest, and for donations large and small.

Election of trustees. Nigel Brockmann announced that all trustees had been re-elected by prior vote. Roger Foreman was re-elected as the independent examiner.

Chairman's Outlook. Much has already happened this year and been covered in the newsletter. The latest news is in this issue of the newsletter and does not need to be duplicated here.

Jennie Kettlewell thanked the trustees for their support and hard work, Sir Angus Stirling for his wise advice, and the ward councillors, Johnny Thalassites, Aarien Areti and Charles O'Connor, for supporting the park and The Friends.

Sir Angus closed the meeting and thanked all those who support The Friends and contribute in many ways to the considerable amount of work achieved.