



The Friends of Holland Park
Autumn 2022



The Friends of
Holland Park

Your Committee

President Sir Angus Stirling until 1 Oct.; Eric Ellul from 1 Oct.

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Treasurer Silvi Spassov

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Editor Joy Puritz

Park Observer Andy Walker

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Database Manager Graham Franklin

Governance Nigel Brockmann

Our website address: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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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.

Sunday, 4 December 2022, at 7.30 pm in the Holland Park Orangery



On 4 December it will be the twenty-second time Philip Simms' Tallis Chamber Choir will entertain us with their wonderful voices, singing to music chosen from across the years, interspersed with readings. There will be a chance for us to join in with the carols too. As ever, Philip Simms will select an original and varied programme. It will be a glorious event, with lovely music in the setting of The Orangery with its fine chandeliers reflected in the mirrored wall behind the choir.

After the concert, we will be treated to Janice Miles's delicious canapes and a glass or two of wine. Tickets, at £27, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or on the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Our President

The role of President of The Friends of Holland Park is an important one for our charity. The Friends' Constitution states that: "The Trustees may invite an honorary President ("the President" who shall not be an Officer or Trustee) to enhance the profile of the Friends." We have been fortunate to have Sir Angus Stirling fulfil that role for 20 years, and he has certainly enhanced our profile. Angus told us at the end of 2021 that he was reducing his commitments and felt it was time he stepped down as president, but that he would give us time to find the right person to take over.

We have found the right person. Eric Ellul is a member of The Friends who lives locally.

He attended our 2022 AGM and introduced himself. I am glad he did, as it was clear he was very interested

in the park and committed to The Friends, and I learned about his impressive career. After several more conversations, introducing Eric to Angus and the trustees, we invited him to be our new president and are delighted that he has accepted. Angus and Eric have given their own perspective in this newsletter.

We are sad to lose Angus, not only because of his unfailing wise advice, but because he has been such a delight to work with. He has not only been a wonderful president, but has starred in our art exhibition in his new career as a notable artist. Angus and his wife, Lady Morar Stirling, will keep in touch and we hope they will continue to come to our events. Please join us in thanking Angus and welcoming Eric, whose experience and wisdom will be a benefit to us all.

Jennie Kettlewell, Chairman

Fukushima Garden



Planting the cherry tree

On 7 September, a second, and more formal event was held to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the creation of the Fukushima Garden. It was hosted by the Worshipful the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Councillor David Lindsay, and the Japanese Ambassador to the UK, His Excellency Mr. Hijime Hayashi. The speeches focused on the sense of healing that the garden represented for the prefecture of Fukushima. A cherry tree was kindly gifted to the garden and was planted with due ceremony. The managing director of Fukushima Minpo News presented a polished wooden bench.



Hijime Hayashi making his speech

North Lawn: The lawn to the immediate north of Holland House will be closed for repairs from 27 September. When it rains it gets muddy and in hot weather it bakes to a concrete-hard surface, so it will be spiked, treated and re-seeded. With time to recover over winter, we hope the lawn will be healthier and greener for picnickers in 2023.



Jennie Kettlewell

North lawn

The Acer Walk will be closed. Also starting 27 September, the road across the north of Holland House will be re-surfaced with the same finish as the road in front of Holland House. Completion date is intended as 7 October.

The Car Park: Resurfacing is needed, and the intention is to choose a permeable material so that rain water is absorbed rather than running off to where it causes problems. A new layout will allow for the larger car size than was the case when the current car park was designed. Options will be ready for consideration at the end of September,



Jennie Kettlewell

The car park

and The Friends will be consulted. We will be discussing protection of the tree roots.

Holland Park Café: The lease of the Holland Park Café is due to go out to tender this September, with the selected operator expected to be in place by April 2023. The Friends have been consulted about the content of the marketing materials. Planned re-alignment of the counter area, to enable faster service and shorter queues, will take place in early 2023.

Toilets: In our summer newsletter, we reported that the Holland Park toilets will be upgraded and will include a Changing Places facility. They will be re-sited to the east wing of the Stable Yard, with a step-free entrance opposite the drinking fountain. The provisional start date is w.c. 10 October with completion expected in mid-January 2023. Portaloos will be hired for park visitors during the works.



Jennie Kettlewell

The sports field in Autumn

Sports field: The southern half of the sports field was restored to a green sward earlier this year. It's now time for the northern half to be improved. Work will start in September and that part of the sports field will be fenced off until the new year. The field is much used and very much enjoyed so it wears out periodically and must be in tip-top condition for small footballers by spring.

The Belvedere: By the time you read this, there is a good chance that the new restaurant will be open. Go and have a look and do try out its Italian menu.



Nicholas Hopkins preparing the Pimm's

We were fortunate to have wonderful weather for our summer party: sunny, but not too hot. Over 60 members and their guests joined us to celebrate our first party since 2019. We were grateful to James Clutton, CEO of Opera Holland Park, for allowing us to borrow the marquee at the east end of the Dutch Garden, and to Operations Manager, Alex Gooding, for helping with the logistics. Elected Council members, Council officers, people from the *idverde* team all joined us for the event, as did Anna Joynt from Allies & Morrison, Roger Broadfield from Borrás and Aruna Patel from Barclays Bank.



Aruna Patel and Margaret Rhodes



Councillors, Lucy Knight, Arien Areti, Johnny Thalassites and Emma Will



Richard Moore and Rowan Freeland tending the bar



Anna Joynt and Roger Broadfield

It is my great privilege to have been the Hon. President of The Friends for 20 years. I succeeded Sir Peter Parker in 2002. Morar and I became familiar with Holland Park soon after we married in 1959. We have lived within easy walking distance ever since. We and our children soon appreciated that Hyde Park is not the only green reservoir for recreation: Holland Park offers something very different and special.

Why is this so? For me, it has its resonance not in wide open landscape, but in nature, trees, architecture, and an extraordinary variety of quite intimate spaces for public enjoyment. Of all these characteristics, perhaps the natural world is the most important, especially in these times of concern about city life and climate change. The wonderful, extensive and popular children's playground close to the car park is a vital feature of the park. Indeed, the whole park was of special value for air and exercise during the two years of Covid lockdown and restriction. The beautiful Orangery near the entrance has always played a crucial part in the life of The Friends: this is where we hold our AGM; and have for many years been privileged to present in the spring an exhibition of members' art work, organised by Gordon French and his wife Sandra. Just before Christmas this has also been the venue for a superb chamber music concert by the Tallis Chamber Choir, presented and conducted by Philip Simms.

Walk along the wooded paths, relish the many varieties of fine trees, and the coppices, spot the great variety of birds (ignore the shrieks of the invading parakeets) . The Japanese Garden is a real masterpiece of creative authenticity, hugely popular, with its own contribution to the right scale and natural features, including enormous carp in the waters. The formal



Sir Angus Stirling

garden has a different kind of appeal. It is the scale that is important: not big and grand as in many great country house estates, but contributing its own intimacy and inviting rest and peace to visitors. The great mural of high society and fashion in Edwardian times leads on to the café, and then to the shell of Holland House itself. This is important because, although largely a ruin, the great distinction of the design is still very much present. It has been a most valuable initiative that the terrace and the walls facing the park have undergone crucial conservation work by the Borough Council. The presence of Holland Park Opera, led by

Michael Volpe over many years, has proved to be a valuable supporting influence to get this work done.

I have always believed that the president has a supporting role to play, not a management one. The president is not a trustee. It has been my purpose to try and support the trustees, and in particular the chair, when this may be helpful. It is, I think, important not to become involved in the day-to-day management, but always to listen and lend weight if possible when the chairman needs it. I do not think it is any exaggeration to say here that The Friends has been managed by a truly remarkable group of people. I'd like to mention first Nicholas Hopkins. Nicholas was chairman during my first years. He was fun to work with, loves the park and was always a successful negotiator with the borough councillors, and the park staff, to secure financial and physical support for conservation. Rhoddy Wood became our membership secretary in 1996 and later the charity's secretary. Rhoddy's commitment to the park and all that it means is beyond any praise I can give here. Her energy and determination is everlasting. She is much loved and valued. Joy Puritz, our minutes secretary, is also synonymous with The Friends. It is

impossible to imagine what we would do without Joy. Her knowledge of the history of the park, what it offers, how it has evolved over the years, is exceptional and all recorded in her minutes. Joy has also been the editor of the newsletter for many years. Graham Franklin has also devoted his great love of plants and gardens to the service of the trustees. We are very fortunate to have Silvi Spassov as our treasurer. Silvi is chairman of the major accountants Emeralds BS Ltd; perhaps it is a reflection of the great value of our park that someone of such distinction should act as our treasurer. Andy Walker has fulfilled many important roles in the longstanding time as a trustee and Nigel Brockmann is invaluable in keeping the charity on the right corporate governance path. I would like to end by expressing my very special thanks for all that Jennie Kettlewell means to me and to the park. Jennie's knowledge of the park, in all its aspects, is deep

and extensive. She has established a truly remarkable constructive relationship with every organisation and individual with whom we have dealings. This is perhaps most importantly evidenced by the genuinely positive and constructive relationship built up over recent years with the Borough Council, the staff in the gardens and visitors. Jennie's knowledge and love of the gardens and all its wildlife is incredibly valuable to the work of The Friends. Her brochures on the park, its birds and trees, are to be treasured. We arrange to have a meeting at least every six months to discuss all the issues, and consult more regularly as necessary.

The presidency has been a truly valuable part of my life and I wish to conclude by giving my deepest thanks to all who have helped to make this possible.

Angus Stirling, August 2022

A Message from our New President

Dear Friends of Holland Park,

As a regular visitor in Holland Park, I have always been impressed by its multifaceted profile. Its greenest areas offer the opportunity of a quiet walk, the tennis and sporting facilities appeal to the most active of us, the nursery helps rejuvenate the park and other ones in the borough in springtime, the opera is a major cultural event alongside a number of other ones, the Orangery with its beautiful surroundings is the perfect place for parties, and of course its large open fields provide an attractive ground for children and team sports. The park is really used and enjoyed by many. The Friends of Holland Park are playing a very important and effective role in working with the Council to maintain and develop it as well as to preserve it.

As a matter of introduction, most of my professional career has been as a management consultant at The Boston Consulting Group. I left two years ago and am now active in boards either as a chair or as a non-executive director. In addition, I have been a trustee at



Eric Ellul

The Wallace Collection for the last six years, and I am currently the acting chair of the board. Originally from France and, after several years in continental Europe and Japan, our family has been in the UK for the last eighteen years. My wife, Virginie, two of our children and I live in London, and our eldest son lives in Paris. We are passionate about outdoor activities, including trekking and sailing, and love long walks in the many and beautiful tracks around London.

When Sir Angus, Jennie and the committee of trustees offered me the opportunity to become the president, I was honoured while humbled by how much Sir Angus, the board and the Friends of Holland Park have achieved. I am delighted to be able to contribute to the important mission of The Friends of Holland Park and will do my best to serve and ensure we are collectively as effective as possible.

I am looking forward to meeting more of you in coming events.

Eric Ellul

It is cheering news that Dr Mark Spencer has completed a very thorough assessment of plants in Arboretum 1 and Arboretum 2*. These are the meadows to the east and west of the Acer Walk. Both these areas are potentially valuable for pollinators and will have an appropriate management plan. The start point was to find out what plants we have and then to think about what, if anything, should be planted as ground plants.



Arboretum 1

Apart from providing a list of all the plants, including trees, found in each of the two meadows, Mark has advised that Arboretum 2 (to the west of the Acer Walk), is in the better condition of the two, and more appropriate for plug planting in autumn. There are remnants of the original flora, exemplified by the presence of pignut, a very slow-moving species that is usually indicative of old landscape. Plug planting, with species recommended by Mark, will require commitment to watering during dry weather for the first growing season.

Arboretum 1 (to the east of the Acer Walk), is in less good condition, due to the very high density

** Shown on the map as Arboretum and West Arboretum.*



Cow parsley

of cow parsley, which has outcompeted other vegetation and leaves the ground bare when it dies back. Before any enhancement of the flora is considered, the cow parsley needs to be reduced by mowing shortly after it has finished flowering, with the cut vegetation removed so seed doesn't get into the ground. After a couple of years of this treatment, we can reconsider floral enhancement.

This helpful assessment will form part of the management plan, together with bramble management.



Drought and Torrential Rain

No-one can have avoided noticing the recent drought. We all sizzled in the abnormally hot temperatures, but it is the lack of rainfall that has caused the big problem for our plants. Stressed trees and shrubs have shed their leaves early, which they do to retain as much moisture as they can. They can't manage the upkeep of all those leaves, so they discard them and we end up with a crispy carpet of lifeless leaves.

Managing the bedding in the formal gardens has been challenging and idverde have been on constant watering duty, until the recent hosepipe ban. The gardeners will do their best, but much of the bedding is likely to wither and look pretty sad.

This raises two questions. Should Holland Park plant fewer bedding plants? Could more water be stored for use when a hosepipe attached to the mains water is banned?

Some years ago, the centre of the Dutch Garden beds was planted with more permanent stock and annual bedding was reduced. This would be a more sustainable solution, with a saving on the hours gardeners spend on seasonal planting, and a saving on scarce water resources. A subtle change would hardly be noticed, but would be more responsible, and *idverde* can still produce stunning displays.

We understand that Holland Park has certain water storage resources but do not know what these are. It is apparent that some green spaces have managed to

install a significant water storage system for times of drought. We read that 150 parks in Delhi have installed rainwater harvesting systems that feed into some sort of tanks. *idverde* is a clever company, committed to harvesting rainwater and to sustainability, so we have hope that constructive discussion could lead to a very positive solution. This water crisis is not going to go away and it would solve two problems if torrential rainfall could be diverted to reservoirs and also avoid areas of flooding.

Jennie Kettlewell, Chairman

Tree Health Meter

Dr Glynn Percival, head of Bartlett's tree research unit at Reading University, returned to Holland Park in July to train up senior *idverde* staff on the tree health meter that measures the underlying health of a tree. It is not always evident from looking at a tree, that it is sick. By the time you can see it is sick, it may be too late to treat it effectively. This handy little meter will measure the rate of photosynthesis and presence of chlorophyll in the leaves of a tree and calculate a score which indicates if the tree needs restorative treatment. Dr Alice Laughton, head of the RBKC Ecology Service, joined the group testing trees around tennis courts 1 & 2.

Following this assessment, a list of trees has been drawn up for Bartlett's to treat this October.



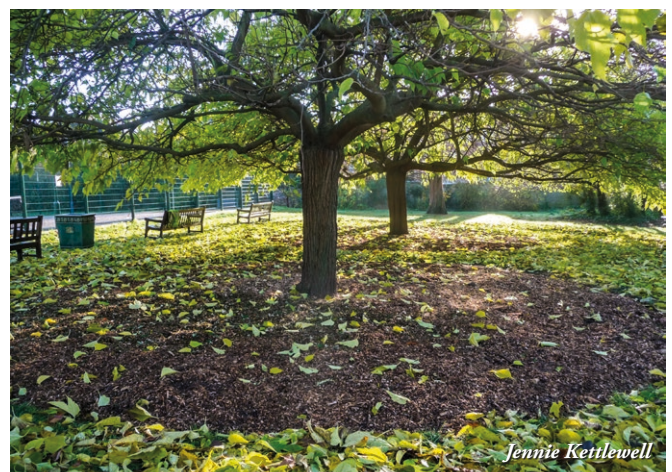
Dr Glynn Percival, idverde's Johnnie Quick and Dr Alice Laughton, using the meter to check the health of a Headache Tree.

This is proactive tree health work and complements the health and safety work carried out under the instruction of the RBKC tree officers. The programme mainly covers aeration to reinvigorate the roots of the stressed trees and then mulch in a ring around the trunk to nourish the tree and discourage people recompacting the soil. This will include the four horse chestnuts alongside the car park fence. The two mulberries to the west of tennis courts 1 & 2, and the Acer in the café yard will be sensitively pruned. For the former, the intention

is to lighten the weight of the canopy to reduce stress on the increasingly fragile trunks. For the Acer, the purpose is to remove crossing branches and to avoid future problems. Some of the trees in grass will have naturalising bulbs planted under them which will further prevent people walking on the root plate.



Glynn and Johnnie assessing a diseased shrub



The two mulberry trees

Hi there **kids!**

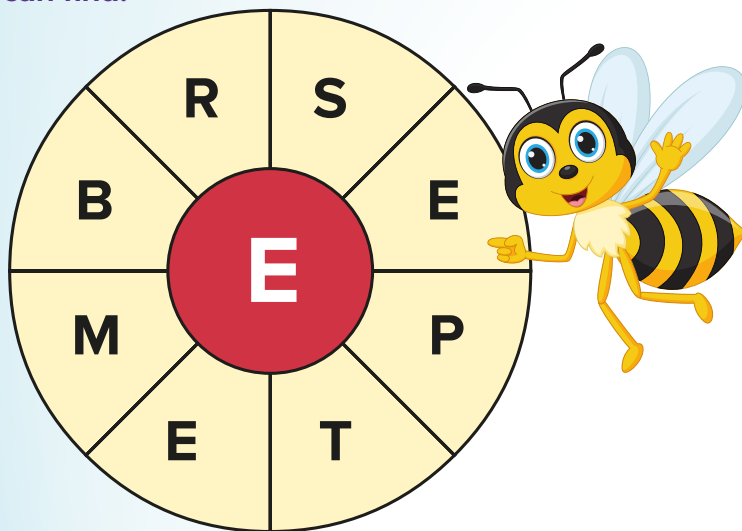
This page is for you, with fabulous things to discover about Holland Park and fun activities to do.



Word wizzardry

How many three or four-letter words can you make from the letters in the word **SEPTEMBER**. Use the 'E' in each word.

'Tree' is one example...see how many others you can find.



Did you know?

Belvedere is an Italian word which means 'beautiful view' and usually refers to a balcony or tower from which there is a really stunning view. The restaurant in Holland Park is called The Belvedere, because it has a tower on top.

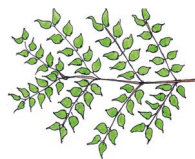


Plants with odd names

Stinking Iris. It is an iris, but it doesn't stink. It's just that the leaves don't smell very nice.



Kentucky Coffee tree. Coffee made from this tree would not taste like the coffee we drink. Early American settlers didn't have coffee bushes, so they made coffee from the seeds of this tree.



Handkerchief tree. No hankies grow on this tree! Surrounding the small flower are white things that look like petals, but are called bracts. They look like handkerchiefs hanging on the tree.



Mini beast!



The lesser stag beetle is a fairly large beetle, with big strong jaws and can be up to 3 cms long.

They live in woodlands, where their larvae feed on old trees and rotting wood. They can be seen flying about at night. This one was found just outside the Ecology Centre in late June.

This year's Christmas card is of the Iris Fountain backed by the Belvedere and its tower. It makes an attractive and familiar view and we are hoping will celebrate the long-awaited re-opening of the Belvedere Restaurant. It is by Clare Weatherill, who has also painted our popular card "Holland House through the Trees".



In addition, there is a range of other Holland Park cards in the brochure enclosed with this newsletter. It would be a great help if you could order early, so that the publisher knows what initial printing he needs. To order, you can use the order form with this newsletter, or order from The Friends' website.

The standard greeting on all Christmas cards is "With best wishes for Christmas and the New Year", but you can choose to ask for them blank. We hold a supply of these cards, with greetings, in three options:

- Standard, 152 mm x 197 mm format at £6.00 for five
- Smaller, 118 mm x 168 mm at £10.00 for ten.
- Mixed packs of ten designs of Holland Park from past years, at £6.50. These will be mostly the larger size and in three or four different designs.

All of these are in stock from now and can be quickly delivered.

If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp,) our delivery of Christmas cards is free. If your newsletter is delivered by post, we have to charge an additional £1.70 per ten cards, or a single pack of 5 large. Please note that sending the order to The Friends instead of direct to Mountbatten gets The Friends an extra discount, unless overprinting is required. If you do order direct, please remember to say which charity you would like Mountbatten to make a donation to; naturally we would hope it was The Friends, but you are free to choose any charity.

Rhoddy Wood

New Tea Towel Design



The Holland Park flower tea towel has been very popular, so we decided to produce a new design. This time it is Autumn Fruits in Holland Park, with a mix of berries, rose hips, nuts and more. idverde has once again kindly agreed to sponsor the printing. The paintings are by Jennie Kettlewell.

The lead time on production means it won't be available until November. Look out for announcements on our Holland Park notice boards and on our website to say they are in stock and that you can order. The cost is £6.50, plus p&p, if ordering from the website. It will also be on sale in the Park Office in Holland Park's Stable Yard.

A Request from Parks Police

Our very supportive Parks Police, based in the Holland Park Stable Yard, have reminded us that we should all take extra care when discarding cigarette ends in the park. By the time you read this, the excessively hot summer weather will be over, but the ground will remain dry for quite some time, so please make sure cigarettes are fully out before you dispose of them. Barbecues

are not permitted in Holland Park, which is prudent, given the very damaging fires they can cause.



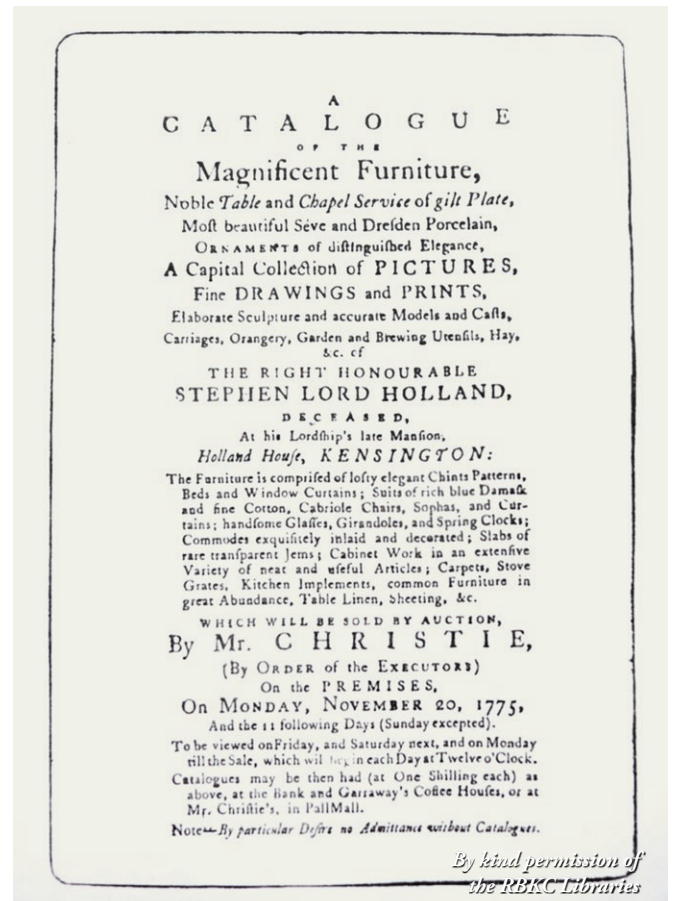
The Parks Police team will soon be up to full capacity once again. PC Jamie Fox started recently and one more officer is being recruited.

November 1775 was a notable month for Holland House and its occupants. On 20 November, and over the following 11 days, the contents of the house were put up for auction through 'Mr. Christie', who had founded the famous auction house of that name in 1766. But why the sale?

The preceding year had not been a good one for the Fox family who owned Holland House. Henry Fox (the 1st Baron Holland) and his wife, Lady Caroline, both died that year. Their marriage had been a happy one, but was burdened with debt from paying a high price for the purchase of the decaying Holland House, spending a fortune on restoring it and its gardens and on lavish entertainment. Henry was described as 'a public defaulter of unaccountable millions'. Their sons had been indulged when they ran riot in their youth, accumulating large gambling debts. The oldest son, Stephen inherited the house but, already ailing at 29, he was dead of dropsy within six months, leaving his infant son as owner. This infant later became the celebrated 3rd Baron Holland. Stephen's widow, Mary, not only had to bring up her tiny son, but it fell to her to manage the affairs of the big house, which must have been quite a struggle without the guidance of her late husband and his parents.



Mary Fox, after portrait by Pompeo Batoni



Cover of sales catalogue

Money must have been tight, as she proceeded to sell all the contents of the many-roomed Holland House. The catalogue ran to 54 pages, with items listed by room and the sale was held on the premises. How depressing it must have been for her to see her gilt-plate, clocks, Dresden porcelain, sculptures, pictures, fine furniture, carpets and the carriages all go under the hammer. Not even the bed linen, kitchen ware, stove grates or garden tools seem to have been spared. The total raised was £4,499. 7s 1d, worth almost a million pounds in today's money.

Quite understandably Mary could not resist bidding for some of her favourite objects and she would have needed a few practical items so that she could carry on living in the mansion. For the grand total of £189. 17s 4d, she bought back (what an indignity that must have been!) beds, mattresses, pillows, quilts and blankets and little else apart from a necessary commode, curtains, a bookcase, cupboard, and table with a cup and saucer to put on it. The house must have echoed with emptiness. A less obvious purchase was the plaster busts of the Earl of Pembroke and a Mr. Winnington, on ornamental pedestals.

The full record of sales gives an idea of the many different rooms and what they were used for. The public rooms and best bedrooms raised comparatively large sums, but it is the final day of the sale that intrigues with its dispersal of the contents of the outbuildings.

Brewhouse	£20. 9s. 6d
Stables	£14. 3s. 6d
Granary	£25. 11. 0d
Seed room	No figure shown
Green house	£47. 5s. 0d
Mellon ground	£13. 2s. 6d
Rick yard	£54. 17s. 0d

These buildings were not for hobby gardening or entertainment, but will have existed to ensure the running of the house was self-sufficient. The horses had to be fed and so did the occupants of the house.

One wonders how Lady Mary Fox and her infant son, managed without all she had been used to, and presumably with few servants. She appears to have gone to live with her brother, the 2nd Earl of Ossory. To her credit, she managed to preserve Holland House and its estate for the benefit of the next generation. But that's another story.

Jennie Kettlewell

Peafowl in Holland Park

Peacocks are a much-enjoyed feature of Holland Park. This has been the case for a very long time, but there is no validated information on exactly when they were introduced. These birds are not a British native species, but originate from India, and we do know that owners of the stately homes of England bought them for their parklands, as a symbol of wealth.



declared. Also required would be monitoring of the birds for health, with treatment when indicated. The peacocks would have to be trained to see their cage as 'home' and, to do that, all feeding of these birds by the public would have to stop.

RBKC are working to find the best way to retain and grow the peacock population in the

The status of peacocks in Holland Park is that they are wild birds, and any form of management would mean strict adherence to DEFRA guidelines, including building a cage the birds could be locked down in if a Housing Order for Avian Influenza is

park. Until then, it is not permitted to bring in new peacocks, and the poor males will continue to lack female company. This last sentence is strictly incorrect as the males are called 'peacocks', the females 'peahens' and the species 'peafowl'.



Gil Limor (c) and his wife Debbie pose outside Café Phillies, Phillimore Gardens with owner Ilir Havoli (r). The Friends were delighted when Gil, who designs this newsletter, won a Champagne Lunch for Two at Phillies in our Art Exhibition raffle.

'The Reformation' supports The Friends for Earth Day

The Friends were contacted by Carlee Barylski, from the Reformation, a pretty women's clothing shop in Westbourne Grove, as they wanted to support a local charity to mark Earth Day. The theme for 2022 was 'Invest in our planet'. The Reformation focuses on sustainability and a fair working environment for everyone throughout their supply chain.

The team showed information about The Friends on their counter-top iPad, and handed out membership application forms to all who visited the shop. They also offered to volunteer for work with the Holland Park Conservation Volunteers.

Autumn 2022

Kensington Gardeners' Club

The club provides a programme of in-person and Zoom talks, as well as garden visits.

To book, e-mail susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com. Check <https://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk> for updates. Events are free to members of the Kensington Gardeners Club and £5.00 for guests.

Tues 4 Oct

Lecture by Zoom. Timothy Walker will speak on "Pollination".

Sat 12 Nov 2.30pm

Club meeting in St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, W8 7JG. Subject to be confirmed. Free to members of the KG Club. Followed by afternoon tea at modest cost.

The Kensington Society

Keep up-to-date with Kensington Society events on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events.

RBKC Active for Life

Full details on www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure, or ring 020 7938 8182

A varied programme of physical activities in Kensington, from gentle walks to sport. The costs indicated are voluntary and there is no need to book.

Mondays 12.30-1.30 pm. Fitness Walk. Meet in Café Yard. Cost £2.10.

Thursdays 10.30-11.30 am. Meet at the Holland Park Café, then share a leisurely walk in the park. Free to attend

Thursdays 3.00-4.00 pm. Nordic Walking, with guidance for those who have not tried this before. Walking poles provided. Meet by Friends' notice board outside the Stable Yard. Cost £2.10.

RBKC offer other physical activities such as yoga and tai chi.

RBKC have a sports and activity programme, and part of that is a leisure walk every morning at 10.30am. The walks are attended by around ten people on average and led by at least one trained leader. There is a different venue every day taking in North, South, East and West of the Borough. All the walks are off road i.e. in parks or towpaths, and none exceeds four miles. The emphasis is on comfortable pace not racing, and friendly conversation. We welcome everyone, and many of our walkers have been coming on the walks for years, having formed lasting friendships with fellow walkers. We hold a Christmas party every year in the Ecology Centre in Holland Park, and we arrange special walks in the summer months.

The watchword is good health through gentle walks and lots of talking during the walk, and for coffee afterwards.

Simon Grantham, walk leader.



The cover photo of the Kyoto Garden pond was taken by Joan Bovarnick

Parks Police

The Parks Police work hard to keep us all safe. Sometimes we need to help them. Notice boards at park entrances show the current time the park gates are locked for the night. If you are in the park late in the day, please check the hour of closing and be sure to leave the park in time. Occasionally people get locked in the park, because it has not occurred to them to check, and then the police get called to let them out. That is not a good use of police time.

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**.

The events listed below are either organized by The Friends (F), or organised by the Ecology Service (ES), most of which are sponsored by The Friends.

Tues 27 Sept	Friends' stall in the Café Yard selling plants and merchandise. Children's activity. Free to take part.	F	10am-4pm
Sat 1 Oct	Bird ringing demonstration. Wildlife Enclosure. No need to book.	ES	7-11am
Thurs 20 Oct	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the families that lived there. Must book.	F	10.30am-12 noon
Tues 25 Oct	Friends' stall in the Café Yard selling plants and merchandise. Children's activity. Free to take part.	F	10am-4pm
Sat 29 Oct	Bird walk, led by Bill Haines. Free to attend. No need to book.	F	9-11am
Sat 5 Nov	Fungi Foray. Must book.	ES	2-4.00pm
Tues 15 Nov	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the families that lived there. Must book.	F	10.30am-12 noon
Tues 22 Nov	Friends' stall in the Café Yard selling plants and merchandise. Children's activity. Free to take part.	F	10am-4pm
Sun 4 Dec	Christmas Concert: Tallis Chamber Choir in The Orangery, £27. (See p1 in this newsletter for how to book tickets)	F	7.30pm

All Ecology Service (ES) events can be booked by emailing ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk, or calling 020 7938 8186. Unless otherwise instructed when you book, meet at the Ecology Centre, near the Adventure Playground.

The Friends' (F) Blue Badge tours can be booked on our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or by contacting Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804/jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org. Unless otherwise instructed when you book, meet by The Friends' notice board in the Café Yard.

Tickets for the Christmas Concert can also be booked on www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or by contacting Margaret Rhodes on 020 7792 1265/thorpemorieux@gmail.com.


Holland Park Conservation Volunteers (adults) meet on the third Saturday of each month from 10.30am to 3.30 pm. Tasks focus on practical conservation that helps deliver the Ecology Service management plan and might include dead-hedging, scything, pond clearing and maintaining the paths in the Wildlife Enclosure. If you want to join, or find out more, please email Gerry Kelsey, *idverde's* Training and Community Manager, at Gerald.Kelsey@idverde.co.uk.

Thank You *idverde*

The whole area was busy over Carnival and there was the anticipated trail of litter. The *idverde* team were meticulous about emptying bins and clearing up, so that early on the Tuesday after the festivities there was not a sign of litter in the park. A group of young litter-picking volunteers on another occasion were astounded to find they had nothing to do. They couldn't find any litter! The whole team has done a terrific job and Steve Morgan, a park keeper in Holland Park, was featured as Colleague of the Month for London and the South East, in *idverde's* internal newsletter. 'Steve and a colleague went the extra mile to help with events for international yoga day. They went above and beyond their normal duties, which included staying beyond their shift finish time in the evening to make sure everything was completed ready for the following day.' He has received lots of compliments about his helpfulness and professionalism. Well done Steve and well done to the whole team.



Steve Morgan



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