



The Friends of Holland Park
Winter 2022



The Friends of
Holland Park

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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.

Christmas Concert



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



It will soon be the Festive Season, a time to get together and celebrate. What better occasion than joining The Friends' Christmas Concert, held in the beautiful Holland Park Orangery. The chandeliers will be sparkling, the music and voices outstanding, and you will be able to meet old friends and new over a glass of wine after the concert.

This 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 fine setting of the historic Holland Park Orangery.

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

Do join us for this concert at the start of the Festive Season.

Talk by Tim Marlow, Director of The Design Museum

Wednesday 22 February 2023. 7.00 p.m. in the Holland Park Orangery

The Design Museum became our new neighbour in November 2016 and, since then, it has evolved significantly. Covid meant we had to postpone the talk to be given by Tim Marlow, the museum's Director, but now we have Wednesday 22 February 2023 firmly fixed for him to tell us just how it has changed. He will give us the news on future plans and explain why the museum wants to be part of the local community, as well as being the world's leading museum devoted to design in all its forms.



Tim Marlow

Formerly Artistic Director of the Royal Academy of Arts and Director of Exhibitions at White Cube, Tim Marlow has been involved in the contemporary art world for the past thirty years as a curator, writer and broadcaster. He has worked with many of the most important and influential artists of

our time to deliver wide-ranging and popular programmes and brings a commitment to diverse and engaging exhibitions to his role showcasing the transformational capability of design. Tim Marlow sits on the Board of Trustees for the Imperial War Museum, Art on the Underground Advisory Board, the Design Age Institute and Cultureshock Media and was awarded an OBE in 2019.

Those of you who have visited The Design Museum recently will know what an exciting place it is. Tickets are £18, to include wine and Janice Miles'

delicious canapés. To order tickets, please use the order form that arrives with your newsletter, purchase from our website or from Eventbrite. If you use the Holland Park car park before 6.30 pm, please remember that the meters no longer take cash.

Information board for Holland House

At last, two information boards have been installed to explain Holland House to visitors who do not know its history. The Friends applied for NICL (Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy) funding and have committed to paying the balance of the cost. One board is under the big chestnut tree at the bottom of the terrace approach road, the other to the north of the house. We notice that many park visitors are stopping to read the information, and what better timing could there be than when the opera has finished for the season and we can, once again, see the elegance of Holland House.



Top: Information board at the south; Bottom: Information board at the north, showing new road surface

Road across the back of Holland House

The re-surfacing was completed in record time and is now a smooth finish which matches the colour of the road in front of Holland House. So much nicer than black Tarmac.

The arcade in front of the café

The ceiling under the arcade in front of the café had become a mass of wiring and lights that no longer worked. All redundant installations have been removed and the ceiling painted white. Discrete new lights have been fixed so that there is soft lighting onto the arcade's historic tiles and onto café visitors near to the tiled wall, when the

weather is dark and gloomy. The work will be finished on the west arcade once the plaster has dried.



Murals

Upper walkway

The walkway over the café was resurfaced and made waterproof as part of the Holland House conservation work, but the scope of the work did not include the part of the walkway that runs east-west under the stables' clock tower. The result is that rainwater is seeping through to the murals beneath. The Friends pushed for repairs and are delighted to hear that Allies & Morrison have been appointed to write the specification and get a costing for the work. They are on the case and we hope to hear shortly when work will commence. Once water ingress is stopped, we will ask Mao Wen Biao who painted the murals, to carry out the necessary restoration.

North Lawn

The North Lawn is now fenced off for the winter so that the grass can be improved and has time to recover before the picnic season. The Acer Walk has been blocked and we will all have to make a slight detour when walking from the Lord Holland statue to the centre of the park.

The toilets

Work has started on creating smart new toilets, with an accessible entrance opposite the drinking fountain in the Café Yard. The path between the Stable Yard block and the Toddlers' playground has been closed for the duration of the project for public safety. No one likes all this building work in the park, but we think that the result will be worth it.

This charming portrait is of Sir Anthony Cope. A member told us that it belongs to a friend of hers, a descendent of the Cope family, who has kindly allowed us to include a photo in this newsletter.

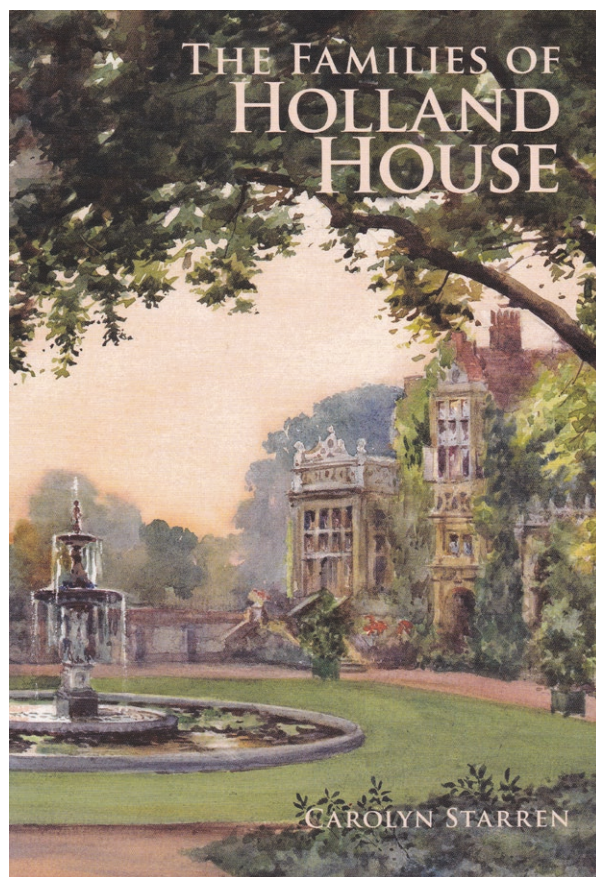
The words on the portrait say: “Sr. Anth. Cope Bart of Hanwell in Coun Oxon”. Some research, with the help of Holland House expert Nicholas Cooper, indicates the subject is Sir Anthony Cope, 1632-1675, who became the 4th Baronet of Hanwell at only six years old when his father died. An elected politician, he sat in the House of Commons from 1669 to the time of his death, aged 42. He would have been aged about 3 in the portrait. Anthony was a name used often in the Cope family but Nicholas says that the costume is wrong for an earlier Anthony Cope, as is the style of the portrait.

So how does he relate to Sir Walter Cope, who built Holland House? The family tree is complex, but we reckon he was Sir Walter’s great, great nephew.



Portrait of Sir Anthony Cope

The history of Holland House and those who lived there



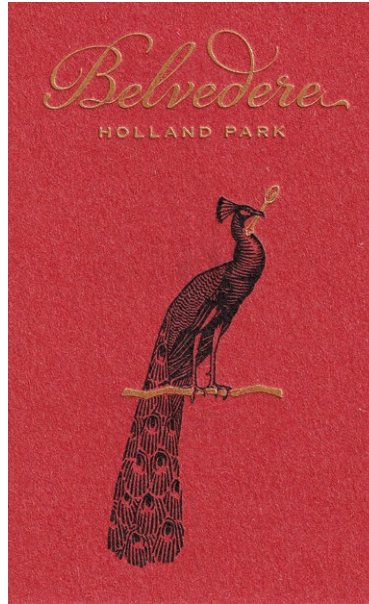
The tour. The history of Holland House and the people who lived there is fascinating and no stranger to scandal. Most of you will know something about it, but you may not know all the intriguing anecdotes that you would hear if you join one of 'The Friends' tours. A tour is also a chance to get a close-up view of the recent conservation work on Holland House.

The final tour of this year is on Tuesday 15th November, from 10.30am-12noon, led by Blue Badge Guide, Leila Sukiur. To book a ticket, visit www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or contact Jennie Kettlewell at jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or on 020 7243 0804. The cost is £10 per person.

The book. The Friends of Holland Park commissioned Carolyn Starren, a past Local Studies Librarian for The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to write a definitive social history of Holland House. Painstakingly researched and beautifully presented, it is available as a 64-page, soft-covered book with 39 illustrations and two family trees. Copies are available from 'The Friends' website, the Holland Park reception office, or by returning the Order Form included with this newsletter. Cost £6, plus p&p when appropriate.

So many people have been waiting for the treat of being able to eat in the Belvedere restaurant once again. Now you can! The new proprietors, George Bukhov-Weinstein and Ilya Demichev, are experienced restaurant owners with a successful restaurant, Wild Tavern, in Chelsea. Immediately after the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea granted them the lease, they set about discovering the history of the building and planning what they could do to link a modern, welcoming restaurant with its past. Their research paid off and planning consent was granted in August 2021. Since that time, they worked diligently with architect David Archer and their teams to return the interior to a place of beauty.

What is now the Belvedere building, the adjacent Orangery and the brick arches leading up to Roger's Seat, were once the stables for the Holland House estate. These stables were built at a cost of £4,000 by Sir Henry Rich around 1638, as a display of status and wealth. In the early 19th century, the impressive stable block was turned into The Orangery and a summer ballroom. Both could be reached from the main house by an upper and lower walkway built in the 1840s by the 4th Baron Holland. The summer ballroom, now The Belvedere, has been a place of eating, drinking and merriment for over 200 years, entertaining many famous guests. The last private owners of the Holland House estate, the Ilchester family, sold it to the London County Council in 1952 for use as a public park, and work started on



clearing the badly overgrown grounds and making use of the buildings. The park itself is Grade II listed and is now owned by RBKC, who converted the former ballroom into a restaurant space, and who grants leases for the park's buildings.

George Bukhov-Weinstein and Ilya Demichev have turned the interior of the Belvedere into a warm and welcoming space. It has been opened up, with a view of the kitchens to give a lively atmosphere. The walls are covered in apricot-coloured terra cotta plaster and the brick pillars revealed to show the history of the building over the ages. There is even a trace of the fire that damaged the interior in 1971.



George Bukhov-Weinstein and Ilya Demichev



Interior of Belvedere during works

The floor of the restaurant is polished parquet and two gas fires have been installed to add warmth on cooler days. The bar is at an island site on the ground floor, with comfortable seating areas and dining tables set around it. Diners are reminded that the restaurant is in a park by the many plants, while elegant lamps hang from the ceiling.

Achille Pinna, the executive chef, is Sardinian and, with head chef Stefano Ponzani, will offer a menu that is modern Italian and caters both for a special night out as well as affordable meals for the family. Look out



The Belvedere Restaurant from the Iris Garden

for lemon and truffle chicken, meat from the grill and home-made pasta. Wines will be a specialty. George Buckhov-Weinstein said: "We are very lucky to have an opportunity to bring this amazing building back to life and open a restaurant in one of the most beautiful

parks. It will be a unique and beautiful restaurant. We are also very thankful for the warm welcome that we are receiving from the local community and the council."

The restaurant does not extend to The Orangery, whose operation is managed solely by the council for weddings and celebratory events. Nor does it extend to the lawn or terrace outside the building, which is part of the park.

Opening will be in mid-November and bookings can be made on info@belvedererestaurant.co.uk and Tel. 020 8191 1407.

A written description is nothing like as good as seeing the restaurant for yourself. Please do make a booking and judge for yourselves.

Jennie Kettlewell

Trevor Bowyer

We are sad to say farewell to Trevor Bowyer who has played such a valuable role in Holland Park for the Ecology Service, as one of their environmental education officers. Over many years, Trevor has helped local children to learn about the wonders of nature and you could see their delight as they ran about the Wildlife Enclosure area discovering frogs, spiders and other wee beasties. Often they went home to regale their parents and I can well remember a small child on a nature walk telling me earnestly what we would find under a stone, because he had learned about it on a school trip.

Trevor took a sabbatical this summer, to work with one of the teams in the Kensington Town Hall. At the end of the period, he was offered a long-term roll as an employee engagement officer, which he accepted. He says he will miss the park and we will miss him. We won't be saying goodbye though, as he has been organizing visits to the park for groups of council employees, so that they are better acquainted with the many benefits the park has to offer. Thank you Trevor and see you in the park soon.



Trevor, engrossed in a Friends' brochure

Design Museum offers 10% off courses and workshops

The Museum already offers our members a 10% discount on purchases from their shop and on exhibition tickets (+1 guest) booked on-line, using code 'HollandFriends10'. We are delighted that they are now offering our members 10% off Design Museum 'Academy' courses and workshops, booked on-line, using Code FOHPXDM. Please take your Friends' membership card to a booked course. Check out the wide choice of courses and workshops on <https://designmuseum.org>.

Several visitors to Holland Park have expressed their concern that the water has become dirty and that the fish were suffering. This was a very human response, but one must think about it from the point of view of the fish.

The water is naturally full of good bacteria which provide nourishment for the fish. It is just how they like it. If the water were to be cleaned of all bacteria, for example water direct from the mains, the fish would probably become ill because tap water has chlorine in it and that kills all the good bacteria. So, when the pond has to be cleaned, the Koi are moved to a temporary pond with some of the 'dirty' water they like, and the temperature of the water must be carefully controlled. Kyoto pond water is on a cycle, which is why the waterfall has continued throughout the hosepipe ban (unlike the Sibirica Fountain which is fed from the mains). As part of this cycle, the water passes through a UV filter, which removes some of the algae that cause the pond to look like pea soup. Our filter is in place purely for aesthetic reasons and to keep us humans happy, so when it broke recently, several people expressed an unfounded concern about the fish. The filter will probably have been replaced

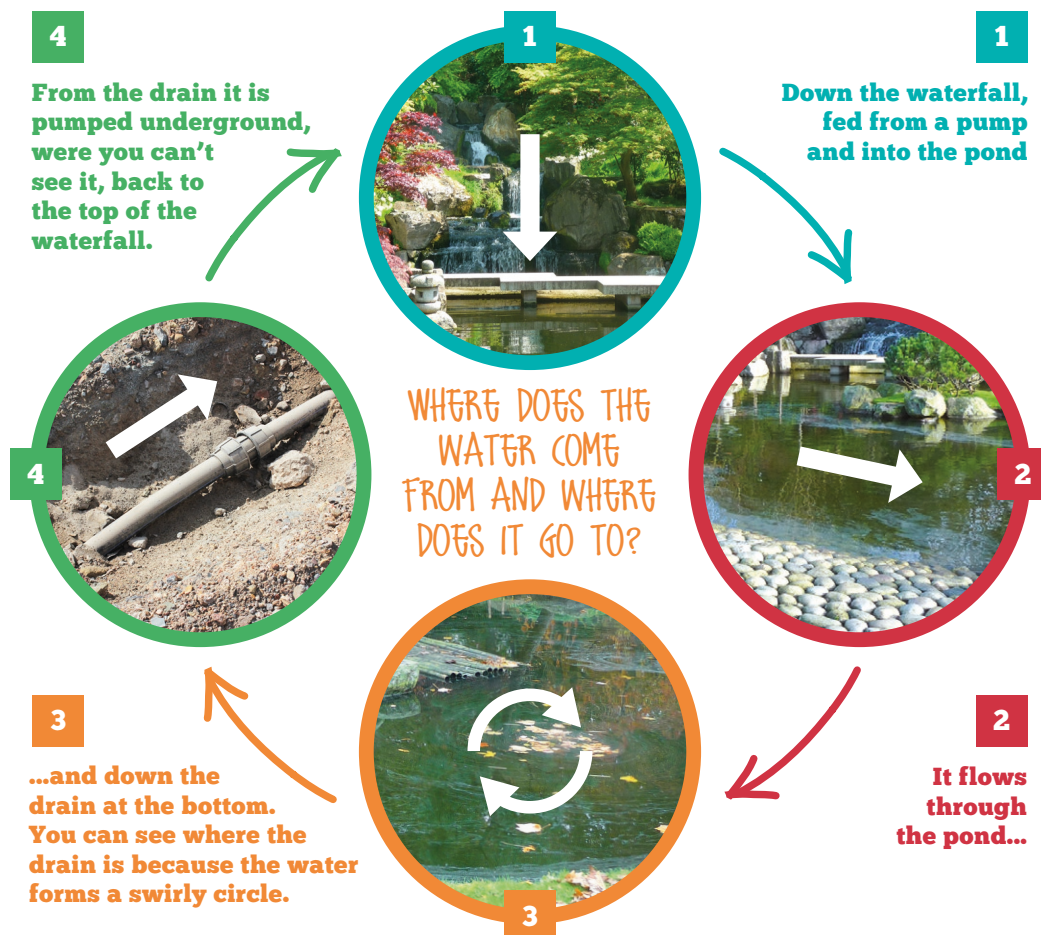
by the time you read this and people will be happy again. So will the heron, who will have a better view of the fish.

Scott and Louis, who carry out much of the day-to-day maintenance work in the park, have experience working at a fish farm. They told me that fish don't have eyelids. Who knew that!

If the water is crystal clear on a very hot and sunny day, the fish can suffer from 'sun burn' and the bright light hurts their eyes. idverde's Canisse, who cares for the Kyoto Garden, told me that, in very bright weather, the Koi go to the deepest bit of the pond to avoid the light. One of our members pondered on this and said: "Animals have eyelids to prevent their eyes popping out when they sneeze. So presumably fish don't sneeze." I guess not.

The Holland Park Koi are monitored and cared for. It is not a good idea when park visitors feed the fish and yeast in bread is bad for them. Next time you look at our fish, spare a thought for all that goes into keeping them healthy.

Jennie Kettlewell



It gives me great pleasure to announce The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition 2023, for which artist registration opens on 1 December 2022. Last Spring we had an extremely successful exhibition, and I am keen to continue to build on that. The enthusiasm displayed by our artists and visitors reinforced my feeling that the exhibition has become an important part of our community.



Art Exhibition 2022

I always try to improve the exhibition and promote the rich creativity that artists brings to each show. Next year, the winner of one of the judged categories will be selected as Feature Artist for the following year's exhibition. This will connect the years and give the artist ample time to prepare work to be displayed on the Feature Artist panel. We are extremely fortunate to have The Orangery for our nine-day exhibition. It is a beautiful space to showcase our artists as well as raising money for our charity.

The conditions of entry are as before: Friends who are artists, and artists who become Friends, are invited to exhibit up to ten works: two framed works to hang on the walls, and up to eight unframed works for display in the browser stands, the latter with a maximum size of 70cm x 100cm (including card mounts, but no wooden mounts). Friends are also invited to exhibit up to ten three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, glassware and small sculptures, or enter the Mini-Market of small works on offer at £40 and under. This

includes cards and craft items. The minimum sale price for works in the main exhibition will be £50.

Friends interested in exhibiting in the art exhibition, the Mini-Market, or both, need to register and pay £15 entry fee before they receive the artist exhibit forms. The easiest way to register and pay is on our

website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org. If you do not pay online, you must complete the order form enclosed with this newsletter and pay £15 entry fee.

REGISTRATION OPENS on 1 DECEMBER.

Artists who have registered for the main exhibition may include works in the Mini-Market at no additional cost. Please register as soon as possible, as space is limited.

Information about the exhibition is available on our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or from me, Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place London W8 5BJ; telephone 020 7937 7222; email: gordon.l.french@gmail.com All the information regarding the 2023 exhibition, Feature Artist and sponsorship will be detailed in the Spring newsletter.

Let's have another great exhibition, and we look forward to seeing you in The Orangery.

Gordon French

Art Exhibition 2022 Timetable

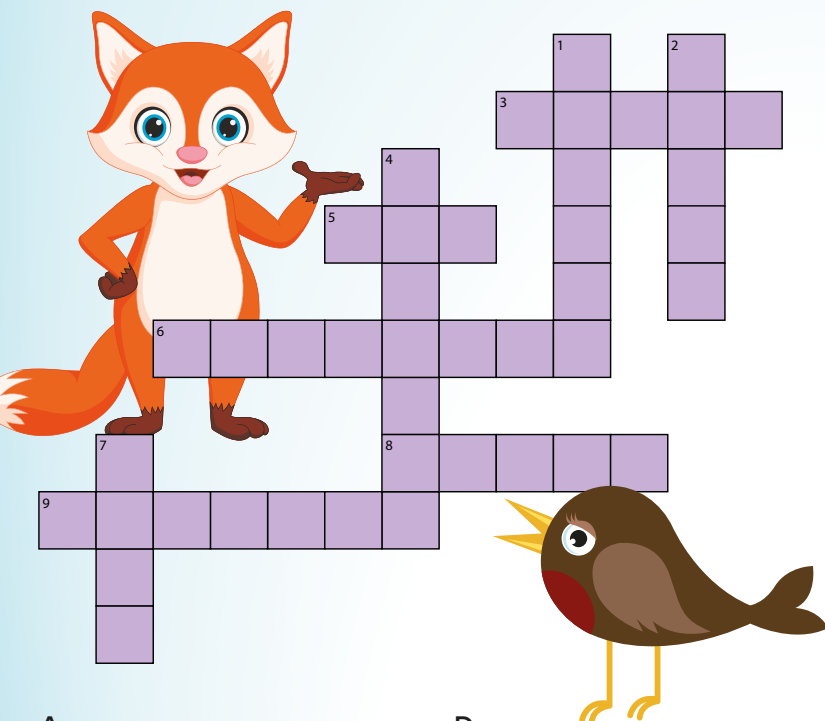
| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Thursday, 1 December | Artist Registration opens |
| Friday, 17 March | Final date for artist exhibit details forms to be received to allow catalogue listing |
| Friday, 14 April | Artists deliver artworks to the Orangery, Holland Park, 8.30 – 11am |
| | <i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct</i> |
| Friday, 14 April | Hanging and judging, 11am – 6pm |
| Saturday, 15 April | Exhibition opens to the public over 9 days |
| to | |
| Sunday 23 April | ENTRY TO VISIT EXHIBITION FREE OF CHARGE |
| 10.30am-6pm | |
| Sunday, 23 April | Artist and buyers collect works, 6.15-7pm |

Hi there kids!

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



Your x-word puzzle



Across

3. Juicy autumn fruit on a bush (5)
5. When this is in the air, it's hard to see (3)
6. Carve a face in these for Halloween (8)
8. Red breast (5)
9. Jump in these with your wellies on (7)

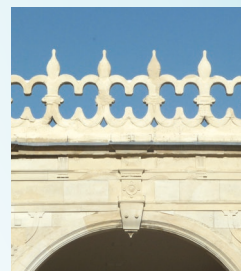
Down

1. They fall from many trees (6)
2. Brrr! It's chilly when this is on the ground (5)
4. You need a piece of string to play this bonkers game (7)
7. These can be hard to crack (4)

Did you know?



A fleur-de-lys is an ancient symbol which is meant to be a lily. The word lys is French for lily, so fleur-de-lys means lily flower. If you look at Holland House you will see a line of stone fleur de lys right across the front.



Autumn leaves

It takes energy for trees to grow leaves and make the sugar it needs as food.

In the autumn the weather grows colder and the days are shorter, so there is less sunlight to give the trees their energy and help them stay green. When the green fades, the colour that is left is yellow.

Some clever trees make a chemical that turns the leaves red. Then the trees get rid of their leaves and they fall to the ground so they don't get damaged by winter frost. Evergreen trees don't lose their leaves because they have a natural waxy coating that protects them from freezing.



I'm a wild animal!

I'm a squirrel who eats what's offered
Can't say no to food that's proffered.
I am wild, so can't you see
That all your food is bad for me.



Let me eat what's there in nature.
Then I'll be a happy creature.
Now's the time to make amends
Don't feed me, and spare my friends.



When you are thinking of small presents to give family and friends, do have a look at what The Friends have on sale. There are two designs of cotton tea towel: one showing paintings of some of the flowers that grow wild in Holland Park and the other with paintings of autumn fruits in the park. Holland Park honey is very special, with a lovely floral flavour, probably from our lime tree blossom. A jigsaw, 'Winter Fun in Holland Park', makes an excellent gift, as does the jute shopper decorated with a tree motif.



Park Reception Office, The Friends' website or can be purchased with the order form in this newsletter.

Prices of all our cards and merchandise are on the order form.

The local retailers in our Friends & Neighbours discount scheme offer lots of ideas for presents: stylish gifts from The Design Museum shop, presents for the home from Lipp, plants and flowers from Rassells and the Bloomhouse, picture framing from Gallery 19, and fine foods and

All are available to buy from the Park Reception Office in the Stable Yard. Everything, except the honey, can be purchased from our website thefriendsofhollandpark.org or send a cheque with the order form included with this newsletter.

There is a selection of Holland Park Christmas cards, with a new design for this year, 'Sibirica Fountain and the Belvedere'. These are also available from the

wine from Jeroboam. The Holiday Inn spa and Threads offer beauty treatments. Or enjoy some holiday cheer at one of the restaurants and cafés in our scheme. They support us with a special price for our members, and we should support them. A full list of our Neighbours and discounts offered is on The Friends' website.

Subscription Renewals and Membership Cards

Thank you again for all your support and we hope you will want to continue to help through these troublesome times when the park is more appreciated than ever but also has had extra strains put upon it. Your membership also gives the Friends clout when negotiating with the Borough on the park's future.

The Friends' subscription year runs from 1 January. Some of you have already paid for 2023 and a healthy number (about 60%) pay by bank standing order on 1 January. New members who have joined since 1 September 2022, or existing members who have renewed since that date, are already covered for 2023.

To the rest of you, now is the time to pay, using the order form or our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or contacting

your bank. If in doubt, check with Graham Franklin 07802 761 548 or ggfranklin3@aol.com. We would like to emphasise that it is less trouble to both you and us if you pay by standing order. If you do not yet do so we are always ready to send you a paper form, or you can download one from the website. Unfortunately this is almost the only thing we are not able to arrange for you to do on the website. The most efficient way is for you to contact your own bank yourself.

You will know that your membership card, which entitles you to discounts under our Friends & Neighbours scheme, expires on 15 March. Those who have paid their subscriptions for 2023 will receive replacement cards with their spring newsletters, which will reach them about 1 March. Please be careful opening your newsletter, as the cards can easily fall out and be lost.

Rhoddy Wood

People are often surprised at how many bird species nest in or visit Holland Park. It is an excellent record for inner London. Professional ornithologist, Bill Haines, knows the park's birds well, having carried out a survey in 2021 and through leading bird identification walks for the Ecology Service and The Friends.

On 1st October, Bill ran a bird ringing demonstration in the Wild Life Enclosure. This involved erecting mist nets to capture the birds. These nets are very fine and resemble a huge volleyball net, so that the bird flies into it, then falls into the loose 'pockets' made in the mesh, and cannot get out.



Bill Haines reading the ring on a bird

The birds are then very carefully removed by trained ringers, of which Bill is one. They are placed into a cloth bag to calm them, before they are ringed, weighed and released.

A total of 15 birds of six species were captured during the morning.

| Species | Number of Birds Ringed |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| Wren | 1 |
| Blackcap | 1 |
| Goldcrest | 4 |
| Long-tailed Tit | 5 |
| Coal Tit | 1 |
| Great Tit | 3 |
| Totals: | 15 |

Bill reported that the blackcap had good fat reserves and was clearly feeding up to migrate south to the southern part of the Iberian Peninsula or north Africa in the coming days. None of the birds captured had been previously ringed in the park or had been ringed elsewhere. Other bird species noted (either seen or heard) during the morning, though not captured, included great spotted woodpecker, moorhen, song thrush and chiffchaff.

It was pleasing that there was already a queue of keen people waiting at 7.00am for the demonstration to start. There were 43 visitors in all, and many stayed for much of the 4 hours, being clearly fascinated by the whole process and by how tiny the birds appear in the hand. It never ceases to amaze that such fragile creatures can make epic journeys of migration, but that's another subject.

The role of parks for migrating birds

Long-standing member, keen bird watcher and photographer, Tasso Leventis, never misses an opportunity to learn more about the wonders of our avian visitors. He had been reading 'World on the Wing' by Scott Weidensaul and discovered some interesting facts from research in the USA.

Birds have learned how to navigate with the faint light of the stars. Light pollution from cities disorients them but they cannot avoid it, and a bird in the air can detect it from as far as 190 miles away. Imagine then what it must look like to a bird when flying across a continent. Birds are attracted to the well-lit cities, even though they are not the best habitats and they might do better to aim for less well illuminated sites.

This could be good news for our urban parks and gardens, which are a welcome haven to birds drawn



to bright lights and big cities. Weidensaul writes in his book: "The lesson is that urban land conservation may be far more important for migratory birds than anyone has ever realized – not just protecting remaining land from development, but improving and restoring urban parks, (many of which are over-run with exotic invasive plants of limited value to birds, and which are managed more for aesthetics and human recreation instead of wildlife). In terms of

producing the maximum value to birds in the greatest need, restoring habitat in a fairly small urban park may be more important than setting aside a significantly larger tract of land in some more distant area."

It is further good news that RBKC's Ecology Service is committed to managing Holland Park's habitats for the benefit of wildlife. The woodland management plans will specify planting chosen for biodiversity.

In our autumn newsletter, we wrote about the use of a fluorometer to check the underlying health of some of the trees around tennis courts 1 & 2 (south west of The Orangery). Most looked in good condition, but the results of the test showed that, while not in danger of failure, they were not as well as we would like them to be.



Headache tree, after mulching by Bartletts

Tree experts, Bartletts, returned in mid-October to treat those trees and some others suffering from pests, diseases or just heavy compaction. Treatment mainly consists of aeration to get oxygen to the roots, and then mulching to feed the tree with a nourishing mixture. You will notice a wide ring of mulch round the two large-leaved white mulberries, the dawn redwood, the headache tree and the English oak,



Horse chestnut tree in flower

which used to have a circular seat round it. The seat had disintegrated and will not be replaced, as the heavy footfall damages the tree roots. In Chestnut Avenue, all the trees had their bark sprayed with a substance that triggers the trees' own defenses

against canker. Bartletts checked and fed the row of Southern nettle and Kentucky coffee trees along the north edge of the sports field. The work was funded by The Friends.

Tree planting is very much on the agenda. The plan is to plant 15 or so significant trees in places that suit them, and then look after them so that they flourish. This is far preferable to planting large numbers and then watching many of them die. We wait to hear when the chosen trees will be delivered so that they can be put into the soil with care.



Brugmansia in flower

This year's variable weather of drought interspersed with torrential rain has confused trees and shrubs. The big horse chestnuts lost most of their leaves during the exceptionally hot dry weather and it seemed autumn had come early. Several of them are flowering in October, with smaller than usual flowers, but at quite the wrong time of year. It is a surprise that the *Brugmansia* and yellow *Callistemon* in the Mediterranean Bed are also flowering, when they should flower in early summer. No-one knows what effect all this will have on next year's flowering.

Winter 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.

Sat 12 Nov 2.30pm

Club meeting in St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, W8 7JG. Neil Miller, head gardener of Hever Castle, will speak on 'The Botanical Garden of Jerusalem'. Free to members of the KG Club. Followed by afternoon tea at modest cost.

For further events, check www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk

The Kensington Society

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

Thurs. 8 Dec.

6.30 for 7.00pm

Christmas Drinks in the Mayor's Parlour, RBKC Town Hall.

Tickets @ £10 for members of the Kensington Society and £30 for non-members. Please register to attend, and pay, on www.kensingtonsociety.org

RBKC Active for Life

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

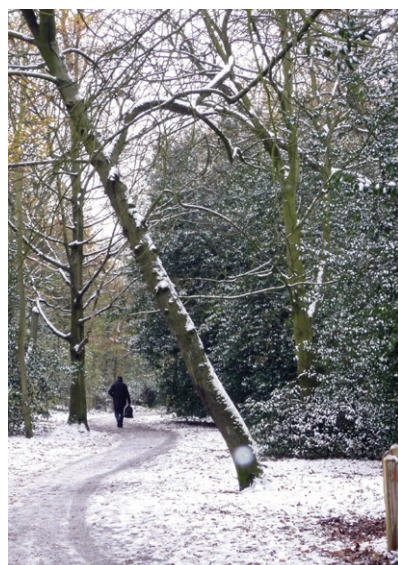
A varied programme of physical activities in Kensington, from gentle walks to sport. The costs indicated are voluntary and there is no need to book.

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.



The cover photo of Holland Park woodlands in the snow was taken by Jennie Kettlewell.

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 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 |

Last year, the Council organized a Christmas market in the plaza in front of the Town Hall, and it has yet to be decided if they will do so again this year. If they do, we will take a stall as we did in December 2021. Keep an eye on our Holland Park notice boards for further information.

At the time of going to print, the Ecology Service had not published its 2023 programme. Check their website, <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/holland-park-ecology-centre/about-holland-park-ecology-centre/events-and-activities>, where events will be shown once they are planned.

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.

Wildlife and plastic are not a good mix

Twice recently The Friends have been alerted to a moorhen in trouble. The first was a bird on the scrape outside the Ecology Centre where a balloon had been thrown. The bird was trying to eat it. An *idverde* gardener was called to help and he briskly stepped in to remove the balloon and save the moorhen.


The second time, was a moorhen on the Holland Pond that had swallowed part of a long ribbon of plastic. The remainder was trailing out of its beak, with the distressed bird trying to shake it free. The Ecology Service were ready to do what they could, but the moorhen had managed to break off the plastic and was found feeding contentedly. It could have ended very differently.

idverde are good at clearing the litter in the park, but they can't always see something under the water of a pond. Everyone should take their litter home, or place it deep in one of the park's litter bins.



Jennie Kettlewell

Moorhens feeding



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