



The Friends of Holland Park
Autumn 2023



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, 10 December in the Holland Park Orangery. 7.30pm

For over 25 years, Philip Simms has delighted us at the start of the festive season with his Tallis Chamber Choir. Many of you will have enjoyed the mix of choral singing, carols for all and humorous readings. At the start of this year, Philip and his wife Lizzy Groves, told us that they would retire and we must find another choir.



Douglas Somers-Lee conducting

We are reassured that our Christmas Concert can continue in a form that is familiar and appreciated. Trustee, Nigel Brockmann, is in contact with Douglas and we will update you about the programme at the end of November. We will certainly miss Philip and Lizzy after all these years of glorious music and we wish them a big thank you and happy memories in retirement.

After several discussions, we are pleased to let you know that Douglas Somers-Lee will entertain us with his Ariel Consort of London this year. Douglas has sung in the Tallis Chamber Choir for many years and shared conducting with Philip in 2021 and 2022, so you will recognise him. You will also notice some familiar faces among the singers. There will be new singers too, from Douglas's Ariel Choir.

After the concert, we will be treated to delicious canapés and a glass or two of wine. Janice Miles has also retired, so we will have a new caterer. If the canapés at our summer Pimm's party are anything to go by, you will enjoy some tasty treats. Tickets, at £27, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or on the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Holland Park Quiz Night!

Thursday 26 October, 7- 9pm, in the Holland Park Orangery



We thought we would try something new for our autumn event, so we are running a Quiz Night, based on Holland Park, past and present.

Small groups will sit around tables, so they can discuss answers to each question amongst themselves before

marking their choice from three possible answers on the quiz sheets provided. Professional quiz master, Ben Millington-Buck, will ensure the questions are clear and encourage lots of conversation and fun at the tables. It's not a test! Answers will be read out at the end.

Crisps and similar snacks will be provided on each table, together with wine and soft drinks. Tickets, at £15, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or on the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Entrance will be via the car park gate in Abbotsbury Road and parking is free after 6.30pm. Do join us, but please arrive on time, as the gates to the car park will be closed promptly once the event starts.

Good news on 'the murals'

They are not actually murals, but 'marouflages', as they are painted on canvas, not the wall itself, and that makes a difference to how the 11 panels are conserved. The good news is that the council (RBKC) has agreed to go ahead with the conservation work proposed by Richard Rogers Conservation (RRC).

Mao Wen Biao, the artist, can proceed with cleaning, retouching and re-varnishing all but the two panels on the extreme left. The Friends have agreed to pay Mao's cost of £5,600 and are delighted he is able to undertake this work once again.

The two panels on the left have suffered more extensive damage and the canvas backing itself is affected. After the paint surfaces of the two canvases have been stabilised, they will be carefully eased off the wall. A thin but strong frame will be inserted behind the canvases and the whole lifted off and taken to a site where the conservation work can be done. The repaired canvases can then be returned to their original site so that Mao can retouch the surface paintwork.



Mao Wen Biao in front of his paintings

It is a complex operation and we don't expect to see the work completed until early 2024. The Friends, who commissioned the paintings and donated them to the council, see it as important they are preserved in good condition as a historic record, and for the enjoyment of park visitors.

We await news of what the council will do to prevent water ingress from the walkway above the painted panels.

Holland Park Café

The Friends were invited to attend a meeting to hear plans for the new lease to be offered to the preferred

operator. The name of the preferred operator was not shared. Following the meeting, chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, responded with comments on some aspects of the lease where it was thought they might impact on the park itself. A second meeting still left questions unanswered and further discussion will be held before a decision is made on what is included in the lease.

The native hedge



The native hedge showing laid structure

The hedge was planted immediately east of the sports field in 2007 as a staggered double row. The row nearest the sports field is the native *Crataegus monogyna* (hawthorn) and the eastern face is a mix of native hedgerow species. Both faces provide a prime habitat for wildlife, and the space between is a safe corridor for small mammals. Hedgecraft re-laid the hedge in 2013, in the South of England style, and it is likely there has been virtually no management of this hedge since. The laid west face of hawthorn is almost intact but overgrown, and the east face has mostly disappeared. The entire hedge is invaded with weeds.



Native hedge showing sparse east face

The plan is to replant the east face this autumn with two-year whips, after *idverde* has removed the worst of the nettles and bindweed. The Friends have obtained an estimate for Hedgecraft to re-lay the hedge, merging the top of the two faces once the new whips have grown. Hedgecraft needed to know the length of the hedge which was a puzzler for The Friends, until *idverde* offered to help and came back very quickly with the answer – 145 metres.

idverde are always busy but we hope they are able to zap the weeds soon, so that the planting and re-laying don't have to be postponed.

Plan for the Dutch Garden

In our summer newsletter, we said that the box hedging has been demolished by the box tree caterpillar, which is widespread in London. Box is now high-risk and the plan is to take out all the defoliated plants in October and replace them with four or five other evergreen species. This means there will be no winter bedding while the work is carried out and the new hedge plants are given time to establish. A-boards in the garden will explain the new hedge plants. We will have to be patient and wait until we can enjoy the customary colourful spring bedding.



Dutch Garden showing box hedging

Green Flag Award

For over twenty years, Holland Park has won the prestigious Green Flag Award. There are eight criteria for the judges to assess, so it is not only about stunning flower displays, but includes subjects like absence of litter, clear information displays, biodiversity, conservation of buildings and implementation of a management plan. That means there are a great many people in the RBKC Parks Management and *idverde* teams whose work in the park contributed to the award.



L to R: Bulent Kazim, Owen Rogers and Hassan Elkholy with Green Flag

RBKC Park Officers, Hassan Elkholy and Bulent Kazim were responsible for hosting the judges and putting together the visit programme. So much had to be fitted into a visit of only three hours, that timing had to be precise to the minute. Head

gardener, Owen Rogers showed off the formal gardens and much else. Dr Alice Laughton, RBKC head of the Ecology Service, covered biodiversity. Jennie Kettlewell, Chairman of The Friends, was invited to talk about community involvement, especially The Friends' contribution. The judges looked attentively at *everything*, from hollyhocks to

habitats, and from litterbins to loos. They asked lots of questions and clearly understood the complexity of our park. All the hard work paid off and Holland Park has a Green Flag once again.

Thank you to Parks Management, the Ecology Service, the Parks Police, the *idverde* gardeners, maintenance team and the front-line staff in the park reception office.

On Wednesday 26 July, the RBKC Ecology Service held a wild flower walk in Holland Park, led by expert botanist, Dr Mark Spencer. It rained, as expected, but still a sizeable group of people turned up, eager to hear what Mark had to say. Clare Maddison hosted the walk on behalf of the Ecology Service, and we appreciated her telling everyone that the event was sponsored by The Friends. She also reminded us that foraging was not permitted in Holland Park.

As always, Mark’s talk was a tour de force, packed with facts and fascinating tales. He led us through the park, stopping at plants of interest as he noticed them. Some of the plants were in the wilder areas of the park, some were planted and others were what many regard as weeds. Here is a selection of what he told us.

1. Rabbits usually don’t like strongly scented plants, particularly members of the mint family such as Thyme (*Thymus vulgaris*), Rosemary (*Salvia rosmarinus*) and Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*). If you want to protect your cabbage patch, plant mint or garlic, it might work, maybe.
2. Rampant Russian Vine (*Fallopia baldschuanica*) is related to the invasive Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica* syn. *Fallopia japonica*), both being part of the *Polygonaceae* family. The two species can hybridise, but it doesn’t happen often, and the result is usually a rather feeble plant, known as Railway Knotweed (*× Reyllopia conollyana*) rather than the rampant destructor one might expect.



Campsis

3. The flowers of the *Campsis* climbers, growing on the arches north of the Belvedere, have deep trumpets, designed for pollinators with long beaks – humming birds. Our collection of several species of *Campsis* flower prolifically, in spite of the lack of humming birds!

4. Climate change will affect the trees we see in our British woodlands, in that there will be fewer deciduous trees, and more leathery-leaved evergreens that can cope with our increasingly hot, dry springs and (some!) summers. Think holm oak (*Quercus ilex*) and laurel (*Laurus nobilis*).



Myrtis communis

5. As we looked at the single and double-flowered pomegranate (*Punica granatum*) bushes in the Mediterranean Bed, Mark commented that he hasn’t seen these in the wild – yet. A fine myrtle (*Myrtis communis*) is also in the Mediterranean Bed and that does grow in the wild.



Punica granatum with double flower

6. On the subject of what is a native plant, Mark told us about ‘neophytes’ which are plants that are not native to a geographical region and have been introduced in recent history. Non-native plants that are long-established in an area are called ‘archaeophytes’ (in the UK, botanists use the year 1500 as the boundary between the two).
7. It’s been hard to suppress weeds this year and, peeping through the marigolds around the Armillary Sphere, were fat hen (*Chenopodium*

album) and chickweed (*Stellaria media*). Both are nutritious for wildlife and fat hen got its name because it was fed to chickens to fatten them up. Small birds enjoy chickweed seeds.

8. Mark showed us a Golden Rain tree, also known as the Pride-of-India (*Koelreuteria paniculata*) sapling, not far from the parent trees just north of the Sibirica fountain. This species spreads easily,



Humulus lupulus

due to its efficient seed dispersal mechanism and we are likely to see more of them popping up in unexpected places.

9. A hop plant (*Humulus lupulus*) was shyly creeping over the fence opposite the Kyoto step entrance and it was good to see it, as the previous plant seems to have disappeared. Hops have been cultivated in Britain for hundreds of years, but what makes it interesting is the stiff downward-facing hairs on the stem that help it to twine and climb.
10. Plants with grey hairs on their leaves, such as Lamb's-ear (*Stachys byzantina*) or stalks, are equipped to manage in high temperatures. The tiny hairs create micro shade and trap cooler air.

Mark delighted us with much more of his extensive plant wisdom, but you will have to watch out for his next walk in Holland Park so you can hear it for yourself.

Jennie Kettlewell

Future-proofing the park's trees

Everyone talks about tree planting, and of course that is very important if future generations are to enjoy the tree-filled park we see today. Equally important is to look after the trees we already have.

RBKC tree officers check for disease and damaged trees that could become a safety issue if not dealt with, but The Friends can help by paying for proactive healthcare for some of the iconic trees in the park. Each year we fund a programme of aeration and mulching around trees that Park Management's new tree health monitor indicates are stressed. We are currently checking out which trees will be treated at the end of this year. Twice a year, the chestnut trees in Chestnut Avenue have their trunks sprayed with a non-toxic spray that causes the trees to activate their own defences against disease, because most of them are



Chestnuts in car park

suffering from canker. We have also funded work on two of the four big horse chestnut trees on the grass verge in the car park. Like most horse chestnuts, they suffer from leaf miner. The health monitor showed that the trees that had not been treated were less healthy than those that had been treated, so it is work worth doing. In July, Bartlett's visited to carry out a phosphite soil drench around all four of the horse chestnut trees. That's like humans taking vitamins.



Chestnut leaves showing leaf miner damage

The Friends' intention is to continue planning and funding this tree healthcare programme, but we really do hope some carefully selected trees, can be planted in the park soon. The preferred strategy is to look at each area, decide what it would look like if no work is done, and

take action *now* that will secure the next 50 years of copses, avenues, lawn margins and tree shelter belts.

Hi there **kids!**

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



Omar the owl
says...did you know?

WORDSEARCH

It's nearly Autumn. The days are getting shorter and nature is starting to go to sleep for the winter.

Can you find these autumn words in the square below?
The words may be written from left to right, from top to bottom and some words are on a slant.

Some words are written backwards, such as 'SEVAEL' for LEAVES.

Words to find: **acorn**, **autumn**, **berry**, **brown**, **cool**, **harvest**, **leaves**, **nuts**, **october**, **pumpkin**.

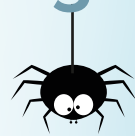
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S	E	V	A	E	L	M	B	L	O	E	K	O	T



This stone basin, in the Kyoto Garden, is an example of a basin used for washing hands before walking round one of the formal gardens in Japan. There would normally be a bamboo ladle to pour water over your hands.



Floating leaf!



◀ This leaf looks as if it's floating in the air but, Mr Gil Limor, who took the photo, discovered that the leaf was hanging on a very fine thread from a spider's web.



Has a space craft landed in Holland Park?

No, it's much smaller. It's a Poplar Hawk-moth that an eagle-eyed park visitor found on the grass. But it is a very impressive moth because the span of its wings can be as much as 9cms.



Moths are difficult to get one's head around because there are just so many of them. Over 2,500 species of moth have been recorded in the British Isles and many of them are little brown things that are hard to identify. Fortunately for us, Andrew Wood, a moth and butterfly recorder for the Hertfordshire Natural History Society, led the Ecology Service moth walk in Holland Park on 24 June and he knew exactly what he was looking at.



Andrew opening up the moth trap

in the Dutch Garden, nor to spot an Oak Processionary Moth nest in a tree, as the hairy caterpillars not only strip oak trees of their leaves, but pose a health risk to humans, causing rashes and breathing difficulties.

Not all the moths we saw were small and hard to distinguish. We saw an *Emmelina monodactyla*, a strange moth that rests in a T shape, even better, it eats bindweed. And we saw a *Green Oak Tortrix* which is of course

Andrew started by checking what was in his overnight moth trap, which uses a light source to attract night-flying moths. The moths can then be identified before being safely released, and just over a dozen people had the chance to see the moths in the trap and to learn what each type of moth was. 30, in all, were shown and named, and some had intriguing names like the *Small Dusty Wave*, *Double-Striped Pug*, *Heart & Dart*, or the *Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing*.

green and looks like a leaf. Andrew pointed out that moths, in caterpillar form, are a vital food source for birds and they play an important role as plant pollinators.

Andrew's knowledge of moths is considerable, as all present appreciated. His meticulous work resulted in the publication of a comprehensive guide to the Butterflies of Hertfordshire and Middlesex and he was presented with an award by the Hertfordshire Natural History Society for being an outstanding naturalist.

Jennie Kettlewell



L-R: *Emmelina monodactyla*, *Green Oak Tortrix*, *Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing*. All moth photos by Andrew Wood

Visit by Roger Foreman

Roger Foreman, who is the Independent Financial Examiner to The Friends, paid a rare visit to Holland Park this August. He moved out of London when he retired from the Royal British Legion and ceased to be The Friends' treasurer. Trustees Nicholas Hopkins and Jennie Kettlewell welcomed him back and took him on a tour of the park. We are grateful for the support he gives The Friends and pleased that he enjoyed his first visit to the park in 15 years.



Roger Foreman (left)
Nicholas Hopkins (right)

As it happens, Roger is also a moth specialist, regularly trapping, identifying and photographing moths. He submits his records to the Essex county moth recorder. He commented that the Oak Processionary Moth caterpillar should not be touched if you see it. It's bristles contain a toxin which is harmful to humans. He believes they can have up to 63,000 bristles!

This year's Christmas card is a view of Holland House from the formal gardens'. It is a view we all know well and combines two of the best loved features of the park. It is again by Clare Weatherill, who has also painted our popular card "Holland House through the Trees", which we sell throughout the year.



Christmas card for 2023

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 £6.50 for five
- Smaller, 118 mm x 168 mm at £11.00 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.

In addition, there is a range of other Holland Park cards in the brochure enclosed with this newsletter.

this newsletter, or order from The Friends' website.

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

The Friends pop-up in the park

The Friends like to get out and meet people in the park and so hold a pop-up desk several times a year. It allows us to engage with park visitors, tell them about the park and The Friends and of course encourage those who are not already a Friend to join. We also sell plants grown in the plant nursery by Holland Park gardeners from idverde. Here's trustee, Nigel Brockmann, cheerfully greeting people who pass the pop-up. Many who know us well also take the opportunity to drop by and say hello.

Keep an eye on The Friends' Café Yard notice board for future pop-up dates. Plants won't be on sale during the winter, but we will have Christmas cards for sale at our October pop-up and we will organise a special Festive Pop-up event on Sat. 2 December.



Trustee, Nigel Brockmann, welcoming visitors at the pop-up desk



A vixen and cub

Foxes skulking about the park

Come to the park early in the morning and you have a chance of seeing a fox. You may even see a vixen and cubs. If you were to see a group of foxes, which is fairly unlikely, you would be looking at a 'skulk'. 'Skulk' is one of the collective names for foxes.

It's been a good summer for pollinators in Holland Park, particularly the wild bees. The Ecology and Parks Services work together to look at how the park can provide year-round forage for pollinators to help support biodiversity. Although bees are busiest in the spring and summer, several species are still active into autumn, as they build up reserves to see them through the winter months, when adult queens, eggs and larvae survive in underground nests and hollow plant stems waiting to emerge the following spring. Due to the warming climate, Buff-tailed bumblebees in London are exhibiting winter nesting behaviour, with workers foraging on plants that are increasingly

flowering during the colder months. Therefore, it's more important than ever that the local environment provides what these bees need to survive. It's not just the park of course - private gardens are a vital source of food for pollinators, with planting choices such as ivy, mahonia, honeysuckle and winter flowering heathers all helping support bees later in the year.

Look out for these bee species in the park, which should still be flying on warm, dry autumn days

Dr Alice Laughton, Ecology Service Manager, RBKC

All photos ©Steven Falk



Ivy bee (*Colletes hederæ*)
First recorded in the UK in 2001, as their name suggests, this bee feeds mainly on ivy flowers, and can be seen into early November. The Ivy bee looks similar to a honeybee, with a hairy orange thorax and striped abdomen.

Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidaries*)
An easy one to spot thanks to its distinctive markings of a black body and red 'tail', the Red-tailed bumblebees forage into November before the queens hibernate underground. The smaller males also have some yellow hair on their face and thorax in addition to the red markings.



Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)
This large bumble bee can still be seen in September. It has dull, yellowy-orange bands and a buff-coloured 'tail', distinguishing it from the White-tailed bumblebee, which has bright yellow bands and a bright white 'tail'.



Common Carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)
This fluffy orange-haired bumblebee can be seen foraging in woodland, hedgerows, and gardens through to November.



Festival of Activity and Wellbeing

The council's annual festival was held on Sat 1 July this year, with activities for those who enjoy a leisurely walk in Holland Park as well as those who are energetic. The Friends took part with its 'pop-up' desk in the Café Yard. This photo shows some of the many people who helped organise the day and contributed to its success.

Team of organisers at the festival



You will all know the Holland Park sports field, but I wonder how many of you can imagine what it looked like 100 years ago. There is now a small area for year-round golf practice nets and a small putting green, with plenty space for a variety of other sports. At one stage, almost the whole area was given over to golf.

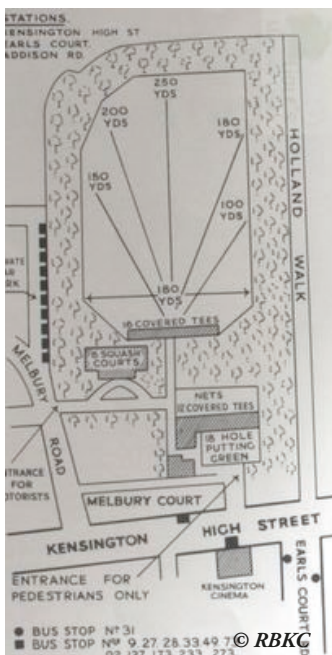
On 7 July 1922, an All-weather Golf Practice Ground was opened to the public and the ground later became known as the Kensington Country Club. At this time, the park was still in private hands and owned by the Ilchester family. At the opening, the first golf stroke was hit by the mayor of the time, and the ball landed within a foot of the first hole on the putting green.

An intriguing website (Golf's Missing Links), dedicated to finding out what happened to old golf facilities, tells us that: "This avant-garde concept comprised of over 10 acres of open land with golf tuition available and practice for every golf shot from a full drive, over a 250-yard fairway, down to chip and pitch shots to well bunkered greens. There was also a putting green laid with Cumberland turf and an 18-hole approach course. There was a covered floodlit area for use during bad weather and for night-time practice. The clubhouse had a dining room, bar and a locker room for golfers. Six Squash Courts with dressing rooms, showers and lockers were also available. Visitors were welcome with no introduction necessary."



The Putting Green

Some lucky golfers received an embossed invitation card from the Club's directors, requesting 'the honour of a visit'. The less fortunate would have to pay £7/7s for a year's membership, including unlimited



Plan of the golf practice grounds

practice over 7 days a week. A staff of top professionals was available to give lessons, held either on the approach course, or on the putting green.

During the second world war, the ground was used for Home Guard training and was also a site for barrage balloons, which were used to protect urban centres and other important locations. The hydrogen-filled balloons were tethered by cables to concrete blocks in the ground. Enemy aircraft were forced to fly above the balloons, or they risked getting caught up in the cables and anyone attempting to shoot down a balloon could be caught in an explosion of hydrogen. They may have worked for some, but they didn't

prevent Holland House being damaged by a fire bomb in 1940.



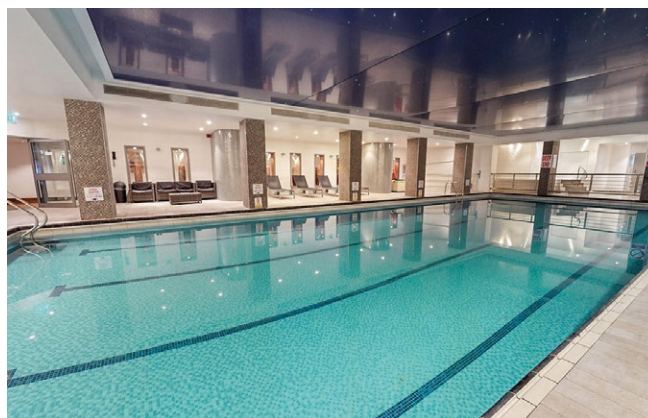
The Approach Course

When the LCC bought the Holland estate in 1952, it was faced with the challenging task of removing both concrete blocks and sand bunkers. The site was completely overgrown, with self-seeded trees up to 10ft high, large clumps of willow herb, and grass that had grown wild not having been cut for over 10 years. In addition there were hidden bomb craters, into which unwary workers and their machinery often tumbled. Eventually the clearance was finished and the ground could be levelled.

Today, Holland Park's sports field bears no traces of this history and is much in demand for cricket, football, golf and there is an outdoor gym. Book to play, or have a golf lesson, through the Sports Office. E:mail: sportsbookingsKC@idverde.co.uk. Tel: 020 7602 2226.

Jennie Kettlewell

As a member of The Friends, your membership card entitles you to a discount on purchases from a number of named local businesses. Not only is it a benefit for you, but it helps us build a community round the park.



Swimming pool at the Kensington Health Club & Spa

One of the founding participants was the health club and spa at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Wrights Lane, south of High Street Kensington tube station. This used to be run as a franchise, but has recently been taken back under the management of the hotel and has changed its name to the Kensington Health Club & Spa. That's not all that has changed. Smiling staff in smart new uniforms greet members and guests, the changing rooms are being upgraded, the reception

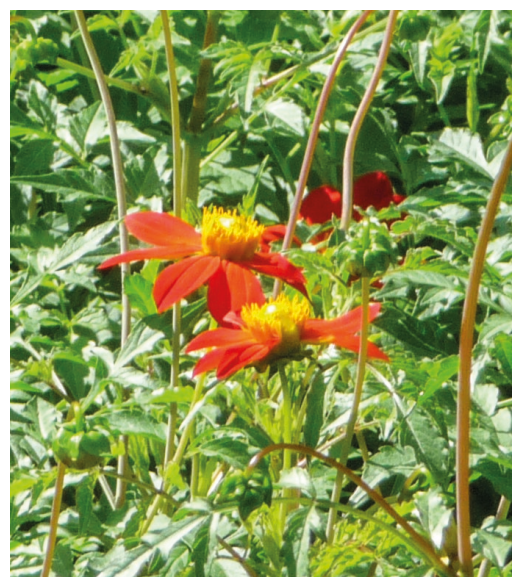
now boasts a display of swimming and sports equipment for sale and everything is sparklingly clean. The new manager, Mo Abbas, told The Friends about the possibility of future events, such as the wellbeing session organised recently to experience the wonderfully fragrant spa products from Templespa.

Facilities include an 18-metre indoor swimming pool, a fully equipped gym, sauna, steam room hot tub, swimming classes and treatment rooms. Friends enjoy a special membership price of £75 per month for minimum of 3 months, paid by direct debit, with no joining fee. There is a 20% discount on food and beverages in the hotel restaurant and there is a 'secret' garden behind the hotel.

Dahlia coccinea

The Napoleon Garden has always been planted with dahlias but, this year, the plants are rather special.

John Fraser, who introduced dahlias to England in 1802, ordered seeds of a Mexican species, called *Dahlia coccinea*, from Paris. Lady Holland obtained some of these seeds in 1804 and grew them in a greenhouse. Later, she obtained tubers and grew them west of the Napoleon Garden and she was credited with a role in introducing the Dahlia to England. In recognition of this history, head gardener, Owen Rogers, took the brave decision to grow *Dahlia coccinea* from seed and that is what is planted in the Napoleon Garden this year. Species plants can be tricky, and these dahlias have been reluctant to flower, but at last a very few blooms of a startlingly vibrant red have appeared amongst the foliage.



Jennie Kentlewell

View of Holland House marred

We are proud to have Grade-1-listed Holland House at the centre of our park, so it is a real shame that the view is marred by litter bins and a large stack of metal frames. It's an eyesore which should not be allowed to happen.

East Wing of Holland House, seen from the youth hostel car park



Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Autumn 2023

Kensington Gardeners' Club

The club provides a programme of talks at St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, as well as garden visits.

See the website for updates www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk

To book, email susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com.

Saturday September 23,
2.30pm

Club Meeting – Garden Competition Awards, St George's Church. Meet this year's winners and see slides of their gardens. Q&A with afternoon tea to follow.

Saturday October 7,
2.30pm

Club Meeting. Author and garden consultant, Andy McIndoe, will give an illustrated talk on 'Beautiful bulbs for pots, naturalising, and to add colour to beds and borders'.

Saturday November 4,
2.30pm

Club Meeting. Award-winning garden designer, Richard Miers, will give an illustrated presentation on 'The Long Road to Chelsea.'

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.

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

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.

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

Simon Grantham, who leads walks in the borough so ably, comments that the walkers are very loyal to their groups and many attend regularly. They offer all sorts of reasons why they enjoy coming on the walks.

"Walks are about walking and talking and socialising. Exercise is fine on your own, but better with someone else."

"The walks are very good for the health and have helped me. It's nice to know they are always there to go on."

"The walks have meant a lot to me, knowing they are there. The contact with many friendly, kind people is, I'm sure, important to many others that join us."

"The walks are a blessing."

"The walks have been a godsend."

"Just wanted to say how important the walks are and how much you have helped me at critical times, a big thank you. You do so much for all of us and keep us all together."

"Thank you for a lovely walk. Really nice."

"It gets me out of the house and taking gentle exercise. I turn up because I don't want to let my friends down and, anyway, I want to see them."

Simon adds that "Walkers have formed friendships and a community over the years and now they often see each other outside the walks, in coffee groups and social occasions, so it also helps to avoid loneliness. Generally our walkers are in better health for the walks they join and the effect it has on their wellbeing."

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

Sat. 30 Sept.	Bird ringing demonstration in the Wildlife Enclosure. Free to attend. No need to book.	ES	7-11am
Sun. 8 Oct.	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the Families who lived there. Must book. £10.	F	2.30-4pm
Thurs. 26 Oct.	Quiz Night in the Holland Park Orangery. £15. (See p1 in this newsletter for details and how to book tickets.)	F	7-9pm
Sat. 28 Oct.	Fungi Foray. Free to attend. Must book.	ES	2-4pm
Sat. 4 Nov.	Bird Walk. Free to attend. No need to book. Meet in Café Yard	F	9-10.30am
Sun 10 Dec.	Christmas concert: performed in The Orangery by the Ariel Consort of London. £27. (See p1 in this newsletter for details and how to book tickets.)	F	7.30pm

Check for an update on Ecology Service events (ES): <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/environment/holland-park-ecology-centre/about-holland-park-ecology-centre/events-and-activities>. Ecology service events can be booked on Eventbrite. Please note that posting on Eventbrite will not take place until nearer the date of each event.

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.

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.



The cover photo was taken in the Acer Walk, in Nov. 2021, 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**.



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