

A lush Japanese garden scene featuring a pond in the foreground with large, flat rocks. A small, three-tiered stone lantern sits on a rock in the water. The background is filled with dense foliage, including a large tree with bright yellow-green leaves, a tree with vibrant red leaves, and a tree with pink blossoms. The water reflects the surrounding greenery and rocks.

The Friends of Holland Park
Spring 2023

Membership card enclosed
if you have paid for 2023



The Friends of
Holland Park

Your Committee

President Eric Ellul

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Treasurer Silvi Spassov

Governance Nigel Brockmann

Editor Joy Puritz

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Database Manager Graham Franklin

Our website address: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

Registered as a Charity, No. 281348

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.

Wed 19 April 7.30 pm in the Holland Park Orangery

Be sure to put the date in your diary and come along, with your comments and questions. The formal part is usually over quickly, and we will have time to talk about our plans for future projects and to hear your ideas. Various areas of the park have been closed for 'works' over this last winter, so we should have some new facilities and some greener grass by the time we meet. As always, there are real challenges and we have to learn to cope with climate change as well as reduced RBKC budgets.

This will be our first AGM since Eric Ellul has become president of The Friends. He will chair the meeting, have the opportunity to tell you a bit about himself and to share his views on the park.

Often, when it seems things are going well, people don't feel they need to come to the AGM. But please **do** come as there are still issues, as there will be with any park. We also need your votes at the meeting to ensure your committee remains in place to carry on the work. Come and challenge us with thoughtful questions and share your ideas. The trustees need your support and want to know that we are representing you.

Members should please register to attend by contacting your chairman on:
jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org
or calling 020 7243 0804.

We look forward to seeing lots of you on 19 April.

Andy Walker steps down as trustee

Andrea Walker, always known as Andy, has been a trustee of The Friends for many years. We first became aware of her when she badgered us to let her have a newsletter round until we had to find one for her. From that, she was "promoted" to running the art exhibition, no mean task, which she did for four years. When she wanted a rest from that, it was her enquiries (at her hairdresser's!) which found us the French family to take over. Andy then reverted to delivering her round which she has continued to do.



Andy Walker

She subsequently took responsibility for the logistics of our events. As she found she had less time available, she became the Park Observer, which meant she kept an eye open for what needed doing in the park. Those of you who have been to our summer party

and events in the Orangery will remember Andy, and husband Tony, running the bar, and Andy has very ably read the AGM report of the past year's achievements.

In total she has undertaken a significant amount of work on behalf of members, but has now told us that other commitments mean she cannot continue. We are sad to accept her resignation as a trustee, but respect her decision.

We will keep in close touch with Andy, who now becomes an Ambassador of The Friends. The trustees have conveyed to her how much her help has been appreciated over the years.

We will see you in the park Andy. A big thank you.

Summer party in the park

Wednesday, 18 July 2023, 6-8pm in the marquee east of the Dutch Garden



Save the date in your diary and we will give more information via email, on our park notice boards and on our website, saying when and how you can book.

Murals

The very attractive murals under the arches south of the Iris Garden have been suffering from water ingress for a long time. The Friends have pushed to have the walkway above made waterproof, but there has been delay after delay from the council and now we hear there is to be further delay as the project is transferred to a different budget pot. Meanwhile the paintings are being badly affected. The Friends last paid for the



Close up of damaged mural

original artist, Mao Wen Biao, to conserve the panels about 10 years ago, and would have been prepared to pay for a further round of repairs, but there is little point in retouching damp panels that will inevitably suffer further damage. As no action was in sight, we have asked that the panels be removed and stored safely, so Mao Wen Biao can restore them off-site. They may be off-site for quite a while. The Friends are working with Park Management to find expert advice on how to handle and store the paintings, as well as



View of murals

how to re-install them, so an airspace is left between the panels and the Stable Yard building behind them.

Until 1991, the wall along the Arcade was painted plain white, which became stained and dingy and was vulnerable to graffiti. The Friends found Mao, who after executing vast murals in the Beijing Underground, had come to London where he was unknown and so took a commission decorating hoardings for a developer. Ours are not strictly murals but are oils painted on canvas in Mao's studio and then affixed to the wall. There is quite a story as to how the images were arrived at, with locals sitting for the artist in appropriate costume hired for the occasion. One of the 'locals' was Rhoddy Wood. Can you spot her?

Toilets

Here's some good news. All the structural work, first-fix plumbing and electrics are now completed. The next stage is the ceiling, flooring and then installation of the toilet cubicles, showers and sanitary ware. Completion is now due in mid-March. Although this work has taken longer than expected, we will have the benefit of a really high standard of toilets.

Kyoto pond



Tortoise and Crane Island

The pond needs its annual clean out to remove silt, leaves and any bread or other food people choose to inflict on the fish. This will mean emptying the pond and storing the fish in a holding tank for a few days, while the work is being carried out. It is important that some of the original pond water is kept, as filling the pond with chlorine-laced water from the mains would probably kill the bacteria

that the fish need to survive. The Kyoto Garden will be closed for around three days in early spring, with advance warning given through notices in the area.

The opportunity will be taken to repair the Tortoise and Crane Island, which has become waterlogged and lost its green topping of plants as a result. Fitting a membrane to keep the pond water away from the plant's roots won't work, as it would fill up with rainwater. So, we have to find planting that enjoys wet roots, doesn't obscure the view of the waterfall and is in keeping with the original concept of the garden. That's quite a challenge!

We notice that the 'deer-scarer', just outside the Kyoto Garden wall, has been mended. It clunks regularly as the water weighs down the bamboo pipe and is released into the well beneath.

The Holland Park Café

We understand that a number of operators have tendered for the new lease, several have been shortlisted and their proposals are being discussed. The new operators were due to be in place by April 2023, but have been told that this will now be delayed.



Holland Park Café

The Friends have written to the Council to make our views known on:

- Reduction of noise inside the café. There is a hard wall, hard floor, hard ceiling and a glass wall, which cause sounds to bounce around and intensify. An acoustic study was carried out in July 2013 and action recommended to reduce noise levels.
- Pigeons are a nuisance in most cafés with outside tables, but the birds have started coming inside our café. Pigeon deterrents have been discussed following successful installation on Holland House during conservation works.
- Re-alignment of the counter area, to enable faster service and shorter queues. This should take place as soon as tendering for the work is completed.

North Lawn



idverde's Gerry Kelsey striding across the North Lawn

This area will remain fenced off until the grass has re-established, the ground spiked, with margin beds replanted and edged to prevent people treading on the plants. The south side, under the pleached hornbeams, will have a low fence to prevent erosion of the grass at the south corners. We have asked for a notice to be erected to explain what is being done, and why it takes time to ensure the work is done in a way that it lasts.

New discount offer for The Friends

The Belvedere Restaurant is open. They are on the pricey side, but the atmosphere is welcoming and the restored interior most attractive. They had agreed a discount for The Friends for weekday lunchtime bookings but, as we go to print, they have just told us they will no longer be open for lunch during

weekdays. We will be offered a different discount, but do not yet know what that is.

The Design Museum discount includes 10% off courses and workshops booked on-line. The current discount code is: FOHPDMWORKSHOP.

Spring is just around the corner which means for nine days every April the Orangery is filled with the wonderful works of art being displayed in The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition. I am always amazed and delighted with the quality and variety of the work and I am excited to see what the artists have produced this year.

This year's Feature Artist is Pauline Rafal, who was one of last year's prize winners. Pauline develops pen and ink drawings into linocuts and artists books inspired by poetry and music, as well as themes based around memories, daydreaming and the experience of change. I have always admired the artworks entered by Pauline and am really looking forward to giving everyone a more in-depth look at her work.

Could all artists please remember to have their completed forms, showing details of all their exhibits,



to me by Friday 17th March. To do this, they must already be a member and have registered to exhibit (see form enclosed with this newsletter). If you have been thinking about entering, do it! There is still time, and we would love for you to join us.

See you in the Orangery.

Gordon French

ART EXHIBITION 2023 TIMETABLE

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 All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details are correct
Friday, 14 April	Hanging and judging, 11am – 6pm
Saturday, 15 April to Sunday, 23 April	Exhibition opens to the public over 9 days. ENTRY TO VISIT EXHIBITION FREE OF CHARGE. 10.30am-6pm
Sunday, 23 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6.15 – 7pm

Janice Miles

Sadly we have to announce that Janice is retiring. Difficult though it is to believe, her swansong for the Friends was at Tim Marlow's talk in the Orangery in mid-February. 35 years ago she attended a talk by Sir Hugh Casson, then president of both the Royal Academy and The Friends of Holland Park, which inspired Janice to offer us her services. She joined the committee and was soon catering for all our Orangery events. At that time she lived in Holland Park, near several other committee members, and it was squeezed on to one of their sofas that I can still see her saying that she was resigning but that it wouldn't make any difference, she was happy to go on catering. We all sighed with relief and she has carried out her promise ever since. What makes this truly remarkable is that, though a highly professional

and much sought after caterer, she has never charged us a penny for her work, only for the ingredients. She has saved us thousands of pounds.

We have all loved her food and sold tickets to our Orangery events by saying she will be bringing her distinctive canapés again. Everyone's style is different, so we won't be able to offer the same again. But she has taken holidays sometimes in the summer, when we have had to find someone else for Pimm's, and they have been good in their own way, though we have had to pay commercial prices.

Our best wishes go to Janice on her retirement and all our thanks for 35 years of cheerful and friendly support.

Rhoddy Wood



Max A. Rush

Bumble bee in Holland Park

Holland Park has always had bees. They are important pollinators, along with butterflies, hoverflies and beetles. While you might be familiar with honey bees, they are just one of over 240 species of bee in the UK, and perform less than a third of pollination. The majority of pollination is down to wild bee species, such as bumblebees and solitary nesting leafcutter and mason bees.

If the park's bees are to thrive, it is essential to provide appropriate habitats to support them with foraging

opportunities, as well as shelter and nesting sites. The main causes of bee decline are man-made stressors, including habitat loss, degradation and fragmentation.

For many years, Holland Park has hosted managed honey bees in hives. Keeping bees in hives offers no benefit to the ecology of the park, though the local community does like to buy the honey, when there is some.

The RBKC Ecology Service is working to help bees and other pollinators by developing a Bee Superhighway that aims to increase the number of linked pollinator hotspots right across the borough. Holland Park is intended to be one of those hotspots. The approach will be to support a healthy wild bee population, instead of managing honey bees in hives, which compete with wild bees for limited resources.

We can now look forward to bee banks, nesting sites and flowers that bees can't resist, all of which will serve as a valuable way of engaging children in wildlife.

Dr Alice Laughton, RBKC Ecology Service Manager

Birds in Holland Park

There was a good turnout of enthusiastic people at Bill Haines' bird identification walk on 4 February. The weather was perfect for birding and we saw, or heard, 25 species, with Bill helping us recognise which bird was singing. It was exciting to hear a redwing's call, just south of the Kyoto Garden, as we had not been sure if they were in the park this

year. Since the walk, member David Jeffreys, spotted a flock of redwing on the North Lawn, which is where they are normally seen. We also learn from each other at these events and Fergus Kinmonth, another of our members, told me that birds' eyes work in an extraordinary way and quite different to the human eye. Most birds have their eyes nearer



Jennie Kettlewell

Listening intently to Bill Haines

the sides of the head than in humans, providing the bird with a wider field of vision, but this means less opportunity for both eyes to focus on an object. This is known as 'binocular' vision. It is said that a pigeon has a visual range of 320 degrees, without turning its head. The eyes of owls and many raptors are different, being set in the front of the head, so that both eyes can focus

on an object. That is why an owl will turn its head to see something, while a pigeon will not.

The next bird walk, organised by The Friends and led by Bill, is on Sat. 10 June, at 9am. Do join us.

Jennie Kettlewell



Accounts

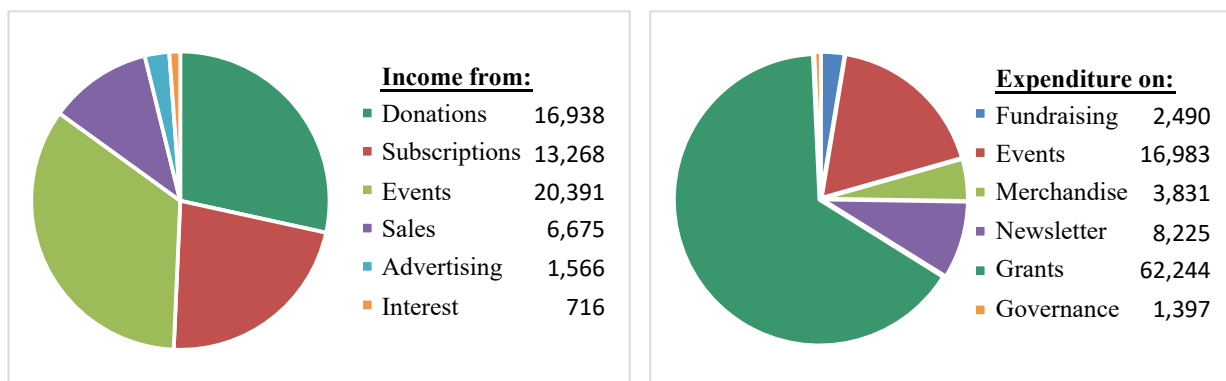
The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

	2022 £		2021 £
Income from:			
Donations & legacies:			
Donations	16,938		78,770
Legacies	-	16,938	-
Charitable activities:			
Subscriptions		13,268	12,546
Other trading income:			
Events	20,391		2,313
Sale of merchandise	6,675		3,437
Advertising	1,566	28,632	1,810
Interest		716	88
Total incoming resources		59,554	98,964
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds:			
Fundraising	2,490		1,660
Event expenses	16,983		2,775
Cost of merchandise	3,831	23,304	1,765
Charitable activities:			
Newsletter	8,225		6,934
Grants & aims expenditure	62,244		30,535
Governance	1,397	71,866	1,275
Total resources expended		95,170	44,944
Net income/(expenditure)		(35,616)	54,020
Total funds brought forward		207,433	153,413
Total funds carried forward		171,817	207,433

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	£		£
Current assets:			
Debtors & prepayments	433		2,156
Deposit & current accounts	171,972	172,405	206,350
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year		588	1,073
Net assets		171,817	207,433



If your order form is green it means that on 15 March 2023 your membership discount card expires and you will no longer be able to enjoy the discounts that go with it. To enjoy this benefit, please renew your membership. All subscriptions were due on 1 January except for those who joined after 1 September 2022. If we think you have not yet paid, your order form will be green with a standing order form on the back. We would be grateful if you would complete the standing order form, as it means you will not have to remember again, and it helps our treasurer too. Or you can pay using our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or post a cheque, payable to The Friends of Holland Park, to Graham Franklin, 19 Campden Hill Gardens, London W8 7AX. If you pay on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, it cannot be combined with a standing order.



You can, however, click on a very obvious yellow button if you want to add a further donation, as some of our members do.

Current minimum rates are £12, or £9 for the over 65s, with joint subscriptions available for two people at the

same address for £20 or £15 where both are over 65. You will agree these are very moderate sums, but we keep them low to enable all to join.

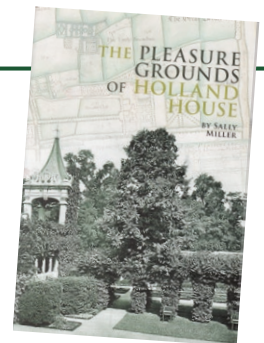
Our records are not infallible, so do contact Graham on 07802 761 548 or ggfranklin3@aol.com if you have a query.

However you pay, we are most grateful for your support, as it gives us clout in all our dealing with the Borough and other bodies.

Rhoddy Wood

New Blue Badge tour

The pleasure grounds of Holland Park have a fascinating history. On 20 June, Leila Sukiur, one of our knowledgeable Blue Badge guides, will be leading a tour on the history of Holland Park's gardens. This will be a first for this subject. There are other dates for tours of the history and decorative art in the park. See Dates for your Diary at the back of this newsletter.



Notes to 2022 accounts

- The 2022 accounts have been independently examined.
- Income for 2022 was lower than in 2021 (£59,554 v. £98,964) as, in 2021, the charity received substantial and much-appreciated one-off donations, with a wish for the money to be spent on specific projects or types of improvement, as well as many other donations from generous members.
- We are pleased to see an increase in subscriptions from £12,546 to £13,268.
- Event income, at £20,391, has returned to pre-Covid levels, with profit on events at £3,408.
- Sale of merchandise increased from £3,437 to £6,675, due to a return to running events and helped by sales of Holland Park honey.
- Income was boosted by sales through 'The Friends' website and by sales from the Holland Park reception office and pop-up events in the park.
- Newsletter costs increased, largely as a result of the rising cost of paper.
- Grants to the park, at £62,244, were up significantly from £30,535 in 2021. This was the result of the high income from donations in 2021.
- The Gift Aid refund for 2022 was £2,420.71.
- Net income was -£35,616 v. £54,020 in 2020. This is due to donations being received in 2021 but not being spent on grants until 2022, due to delayed projects.
- Total funds carried forward stood at £171,817. This is a decrease on £207,433 in 2021 but is satisfying in that it shows money is being spent according to our charitable objects.

Hi there **kids!**

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



Spot the signs of spring



Spring is the time when the weather gets warmer and days get longer. These changes wake up nature. The birds and animals have their babies, the trees and plants burst into life with buds. See if you can find:



Moorhen chicks

They might be on the Kyoto Pond.



Snowdrops

You might find them between the two fences just south of the Lord Holland Pond.



Frogspawn

Have a look in the shallow pool of water by the Ecology Centre.



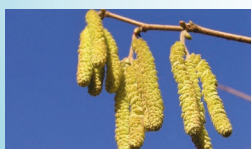
Bees

They might be anywhere there are flowers and the bees can find nectar.



Blossom and spring flowers

Some trees, such as blackthorn and cherry plum, flower in early spring. Daffodils flower in the park's woodlands.



Catkins on hazel trees

These can be seen as early as February. They are covered in powdery yellow pollen.

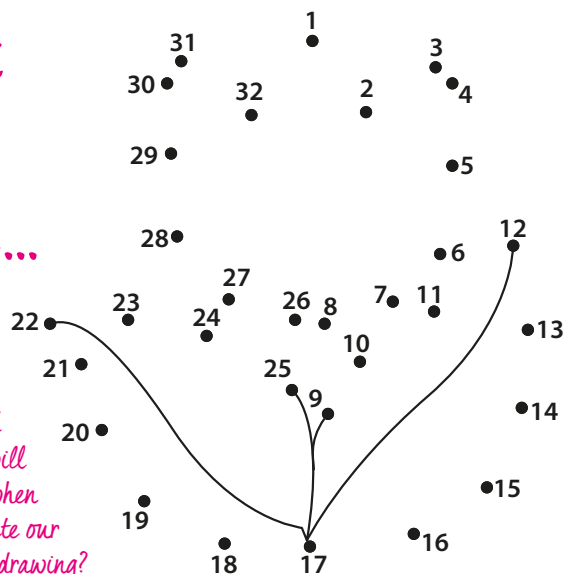
Did you know?



The fountain in the pond just east of The Orangery is called the Sibirica Fountain. William Pye, who designed it, thought it was the same sort of shape as a water iris, which is known as 'Iris sibirica'. It is a clever design because the water spouts into four little cups in the pond and makes a pretty splash.

Dot to dot...

What kind of plant will you find when you complete our dot to dot drawing?



Bonkers bee facts

When you see a bee, it looks as if it has two wings, but it actually has four.

The two wings on each side hook together when the bee flies, to give it more power to fly. These wings unhook when the bee isn't flying and lie one on top of the other, so they appear to be one wing.



The Ecology Service is keen to encourage more butterflies in the park. To do that, more information is needed, and the plan is to record butterfly numbers by setting up a transect this spring. A transect is a measured section of ground in which species can be counted and logged each week to help build up a picture of which butterflies frequent the park, and where they can be found in the different park habitats.

The Ecology team are looking for expressions of interest from members of The Friends who would like to volunteer to monitor butterflies in publicly accessible areas of the park. You don't have to commit to recording every week (unless you want to!) and it's a lovely way to bring new focus to a familiar walk around the park.



Small white butterfly



Speckled wood butterfly

An expert from the Butterfly Conservation Trust will be delivering a training workshop for volunteers on butterfly identification in Holland Park on Tuesday 18th April. Due to the nature of the project, unfortunately this opportunity is only open to adults. If you think this is something you would like to do, please email ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk, mentioning Butterfly Survey in the subject box. If the pool of volunteers is large enough, it makes it easier to accommodate holidays and times when you cannot commit to visiting the park.

Please help prevent Avian Influenza

There have been 144 confirmed cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1 in the UK since 1 October 2022, but none have yet been confirmed in Kensington and Chelsea. We want to keep it that way. RBKC Parks Management and the Ecology Service are following government guidelines, but you can help too.

Please don't feed birds, including peafowl, in the park. Feeding encourages birds to congregate which could spread the disease. Do not touch surfaces where it is evident that lots of birds have been e.g. where there are bird feathers or bird droppings. And please don't be tempted to pick up peafowl feathers, however attractive they are. If you see a dead bird, do not

touch it but please do report it to a member of the idverde staff, or email: Parks@rbkc.gov.uk.

RBKC will launch an impactful poster campaign with a QR code link for updates on the Government website. Or try: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-flu-avian-influenza-latest-situation-in-england#full-publication-update-history>

The avian influenza situation means we have had to postpone our plans to re-invigorate our depleted pride of peafowl in Holland Park.

Thank you for helping keep Holland Park's birds safe.

When late member of The Friends, Andrew Whiteley, left money in his will 'for nature' in 2017, we knew exactly what he would have liked it to be spent on. He loved the Mediterranean Bed, which runs beneath the old north wall to the Dutch Garden, and that seemed a suitable place to benefit from the sum of around £14,000.

The wall shelters the bed and creates a micro-climate which allows plants from Mediterranean climes to grow. The plan was to create a structure that ensured the bed would look good for many years, with sizeable 'anchor plants', interspersed with themed bays of planting. At



Prickly Moses



Azara

the time, it was said that 'Predominance of evergreen species means the bed will look good in winter as well as summer. Bulbs and perennials will add colour, but not so much that it clashes with the main attraction, the formal beds in the centre of the Dutch Garden.'

The bed was planted up in 2017, with some very interesting shrubs and perennials. Since then, it



Callistemon

has lost its way, and many of the plants added have not been true to the original concept. Now that is being put right and head gardener, Owen Rogers has devised a new planting. It will retain the species originally chosen in 2017, inappropriate plants will be removed, and new plants will be added to fit the Mediterranean theme.

Approval has been given to carry out the first stage which is to make sure all the plants chosen in 2017 are still represented. Some of the anchor plants are old favourites and you may recognise the Myrtle, Pomegranate, 'Prickly Moses', *Callistemon* and *Azara mycophylla*. A welcome addition will be *Luma apiculata*, a very attractive small tree from the same family as myrtle and with cinnamon-coloured outer bark that peels off to reveal a beautiful cream-coloured inner surface.



Pomegranate

It will be thoroughly satisfying to watch this garden evolve and flourish, with a much clearer structure and in line with the original plan. We hope Andrew would have been pleased with the result, and that his sister, who visits often, would recognise it as what Andrew wanted.

Jennie Kettlewell

In November last year, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea held their first Sport and Physical Activity Awards since the pandemic. The event celebrated local sporting heroes and organisations that dedicate their time to helping borough residents get active. Ten awards were presented by Swimming World Champion and former Olympian, Mark Foster.

We are delighted that one award went to member of The Friends, Simon Grantham, for his work as Wellbeing Walk Leader for RBKC's Active for Life programme. He leads a daily walk and co-leads the Nordic Walk in Holland park each Thursday afternoon.

Having been on some of the walks myself, I can attest to the fact that Simon is very careful to ensure walkers are safe, which has been particularly important during icy weather. He is reassuring to those who haven't taken a walk in a while and welcoming to all. The groups get to know each other, look out for each other and often go to a



Svetlana Mills and Simon Grantham with their awards



Nordic Walking group on a frosty day

café after the walk for a friendly chat over a coffee and bun.

Other walk leaders who won an award were Mike Bates, Ewa Kingsleigh-Smith and Svetlana Mills (also a member of The Friends), who guided the first walk some 20 years ago.

Lead member for Culture, Leisure and Community Safety, Cllr Emma Will, said of the awards, "The Sports Awards celebrate local people and the organisations in our borough who support their community day in and day out and work hard to inspire them through a range of physical activities." She praised their commitment, enthusiasm, and encouragement that helps people to feel connected and to improve their health.

Congratulations to Simon and thank you for your support and your patience. Do check out the Active for Life programme (see contact details on p14 of this newsletter) and join one of the walks.

Jennie Kettlewell



The cover photo of the Kyoto Garden 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**.



Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Spring 2023

Kensington Gardeners' Club

The club provides a programme of talks at St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, as well as garden visits. To book, email susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com.

<i>Saturday March 11, 2023, 2:30 – 4:30pm</i>	Gardeners Question Time with Harvey Groffman and Jim Buttress. West London Bowling Club, 112a Highlever Road, W10 6PL. Entry £5 payable to the West London Bowling Club includes afternoon tea.
<i>Saturday March 25, 2023, 2:30pm</i>	Club Meeting , Derry Watkins of Special Plants Nursery will speak about unusual and long-blooming flowers, with plants and seeds for sale.
<i>Tuesday April 18, 2023</i>	Garden Visit , Hever Castle, Kent – Head gardener Neil Miller takes us for a guided walk at the childhood home of Anne Boleyn. Must book. Gardeners' Club members £40, non-members £45.

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

Opera Holland Park

Further information from www.operahollandpark.com

Tickets will be available by phoning 0300 999 1000

<i>1, 3, 7, 9, 15, 17, 22 & 24 June at 7.30pm</i>	Rigoletto by Giuseppe Verdi
<i>10, 14, 21 & 2 June at 7.30pm</i>	Hansel and Gretel by Engelbert Humperdinck
<i>Relaxed Matinee 18 June at 2pm</i>	
<i>Young Artists Performance on 16 June at 7.30pm</i>	
<i>19, 21, 25, 27 & 29 July and 1, 3 & 5 August at 7.30pm</i>	La bohème by Giacomo Puccini
<i>Relaxed Matinee 23 July at 2pm</i>	
<i>22, 26, & 28 July and 2, 4 August at 7.30pm</i>	Itch by Jonathan Dove
<i>Relaxed Matinee 30 July at 2pm</i>	
<i>29 July at 1pm, 30 July at 7.30pm & 31 July at 7.30pm</i>	Opera song recitals
<i>9, 10, 11 & 12 August at 7.30pm.</i>	Ruddigore by Gilbert and Sullivan
<i>Relaxed Matinee 12 August at 2pm</i>	

The Kensington Society

A programme of lectures, talks, walks and visits is being planned for 2023 and all events, as they are arranged, can be found 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.

Dates for your Diary: Events in Holland Park




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 7 Mar	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the families that lived there. Last chance to see conserved building before it closes for the opera season. Must book. £10	F	2.30-4pm
Wed 5 April	Friends' stall in the Café Yard selling plants and merchandise. Children's spotter activity. Free to take part.	F	10am-4pm
Sat 15-Sun 23 April	Friends Art exhibition in the Holland Park Orangery. Free to visit	F	10.30am-6pm
Thurs 13 April	Blue Badge guided tour. Decorative Art. Must book. £10	F	2.30-4pm
Wed 19 April	Friends' AGM for members only. Update on plans for the Park and chance to ask questions and share your views. Please contact Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804 / jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org to let her know you will attend.	F	7.30pm
Wed 19 April	Spring plant walk with Dr Mark Spencer. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Sat 7 May	Dawn chorus bird walk led by David Darrell-Lambert. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	5-7am
Sat 7 May	Family Bird Song walk led by David Darrell-Lambert. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	8-10am
Wed 17 May	Blue Badge guided tour. Decorative art in the north of the park. Must book. £10.	F	10.30am-noon
Tues 23 May	Bat Walk led by Philip Briggs. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	8.30-10.30pm
Tues 30 May	Friends' stall in the Café Yard selling plants and merchandise. Children's spotter activity. Free to take part.	F	10am-4pm
Sat 10 June	Bird walk led by Bill Haines. Free to attend. No need to book. Meet by The Friends' noticeboard in the Café Yard.	F	9-10.30am
Tues 20 June	Blue Badge guided tour. NEW! History of the Holland Park Gardens. Must book. £10	F	2.30-4pm
Wed 21 June	Tree identification walk in Holland Park, led by Dr Alan Harrington. Free to attend. No need to book. Meet by The Friends' noticeboard in the Café Yard.	F	11am-1pm
Sat 23 June	Butterfly and Moth morning. Free to attend but must book.	ES	10am-noon

At the time of going to print, the Ecology Service (ES) had not published its complete 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. ES events may also be posted on www.rbkc.gov.uk/events/ecology.

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.



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