



*The Friends of Holland Park  
Summer 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](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org)

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### OUR ADVERTISERS

That we are able to produce this quarterly newsletter for members is in no small measure thanks to the continued support of our advertisers. We are most grateful to them, and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please.

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

We've had the rain, so now it's time for the sun to come out and what better way to celebrate summer than to come to The Friends' party in the park. The date is Tues. 18 July. The time is 6-8pm and the place is the marquee at the east end of the Dutch Garden. Access is from the Dutch Garden only.

There will be refreshing Pimm's fruit cup, tasty canapés and good company, all with the lovely view of the Dutch Garden summer planting. We are most grateful to James Clutton, CEO of Opera Holland Park, for allowing us once again to borrow their marquee on the raised terrace to the east of the Dutch Garden. Come rain or shine, we will be protected from anything the weather will throw at us.

This is the one event of our year that is only open to Friends and their immediate guests, but not the

general public. Do come and celebrate with us! Tickets, at £25 each, can be booked on the enclosed order form or via our website. The car park is free after 6.30pm.



## Bird flu delays action on peafowl

The Government advises that the scale of recent avian influenza ('bird flu') outbreaks across the UK and Europe has been unprecedented, with cases being confirmed into a second year for the first time. The threat to poultry and other captive birds has meant an Avian Influenza Prevention Zone (AIPZ) has been in force nationally.



The peafowl in Holland Park are not captive, but wild. If they were to be managed in any way, such as introducing new stock, they would no longer be considered wild and would be subject to government restrictions, such as locking up the birds and restricting access to them for all but essential bird keepers. These keepers would be required to change clothing and footwear before entering bird enclosures to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

It is for this reason, that action to strengthen the park's stock of peafowl has been delayed. The peafowl

would have been locked away for much of the past year.

As you will have read in previous newsletters, the first stage is to build a peafowl lock-down cage, well away from where park visitors can reach it. Park visitors must stop feeding the peafowl, for two reasons. Feeding birds in the park encourages them to congregate and

thus increases the chance of spreading bird flu from one bird to another. The peafowl need to learn that they are only fed at the site of the cage, so that they think of the cage as 'home'.

We all want to see these beautiful birds strutting round our park, looking healthy and breeding successfully. Let's hope that bird flu declines and the council can get on with their programme to create a new pride in Holland Park.

The AGM was well attended and well exceeded the 30 members needed to be quorate. All votes were carried.

- Minutes of the 2022 AGM were approved
- Accounts for 2022 were approved and have since been filed with the Charity Commission
- All trustees standing were re-elected: Jennie Kettlewell (Chairman), Silvi Spassov (Treasurer), Rhoddy Wood (Secretary), Nigel Brockmann (governance), Graham Franklin (member database), Sandra French (art exhibition), Nicholas Hopkins (website), Joy Puritz (editor).
- Roger Foreman was re-elected as independent examiner

Nicholas Hopkins reported on achievements in 2022: completion of the conservation of Holland House, completion of the quiet garden, installation of information boards on the history of Holland House, and continuation of the proactive tree health programme which can now be planned and assessed using the purchased meter that measures tree health. Rhoddy Wood reported there were just under

1,000 paid-up members at the end of 2022, which represents a steady increase following the pandemic. Silvi Spassov commented on the 2022 accounts.

Chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, explained that members frequently say they appreciate our wonderful park, but there are always challenges. High visitor numbers result in erosion of grass and compaction of ground, for which there is no simple solution. Climate change, with extreme weather, causes plant loss and makes it difficult to plan. Drought and torrential rain were a challenge for the management of water. Current projects were conservation of the murals and the terra cotta bricks, with a longer-term project of conserving the old dairy. The Friends welcomed the management plan for each woodland area.

Thanks were given to the French family for another successful art exhibition, to the trustees for their tireless work in running the charity, to president Eric Ellul for his support and to the members for their loyalty, without which The Friends could not operate.

## News Update as at 22 May 2023

### Repairs to the terra cotta bricks



*Damaged terra cotta brick*

These can be found in the wall across the front of Holland House, and in a wall to the west of the house. They were probably made by John Blashfield of Ironbridge and installed when the raised terrace was created in about 1848. There are two designs: H for Holland, with a baron's crown; and a winged cherub, wielding a four-pronged fish spear while riding on the back of a wyvern. Some of the bricks have been damaged, so moulds of both designs will be taken during the summer. Cleaning of all the bricks

and the repairs will take place once Opera Holland Park has vacated the site at the end of September. The Friends have agreed to pay the cost of £13,675.

### Murals

Following expert advice, it is likely that only two of the 11 panels are so badly damaged that they need to be removed for conservation of the backing canvas, and because of rapid deterioration. These are the two panels nearest to the Café Yard and they will be stored until the site is dry and safe for them to be returned. Seven panels can be retouched by the artist, as the backs are relatively dry and it is the paint surface that has suffered from being in the open air. That leaves



*Post cards of the murals*



two panels which have some damage, but do not need immediate removal. The surface of these can probably be retouched in a way that is reversible, in case they need a more drastic solution in future. We still await news from the council about when they will seal the walkway above the murals, in order to prevent further water ingress. Some of the pillars between the paintings had suffered from rising damp due to flooding after torrential rain, but have now dried out. There is risk of future flooding if the cause is not corrected.

### North Lawn



*New grass on North Lawn*

Following closure for the past six months, the North Lawn is now open again and is a wonderfully green sward. New fencing will guide people to the exit at the south via the central pathway.

### Toilets

The new toilets are open and functioning well after initial problems. The Friends have queried the absence of a ramp entrance to the main toilet and, although this is not simple to achieve, it is being explored as it really is necessary for parents with



*New toilets, with main door on left and radar key access door on right*

prams and for those who can't manage steps easily. The wheelchair access toilet is open for those entitled to hold a radar key.

### Café

We understand that the Cooks & Partners' lease for operation of the Holland Park Café has been extended for the summer. We have no further news about which company will hold the lease after that. Nor do we have any news about the very necessary improvements to the interior, which will enable faster service at the till and service area. We have been told that potential leaseholders have understandably proposed interior decoration, and hope the Council will ensure the chosen style is in keeping with the historic site.

### Sports ground

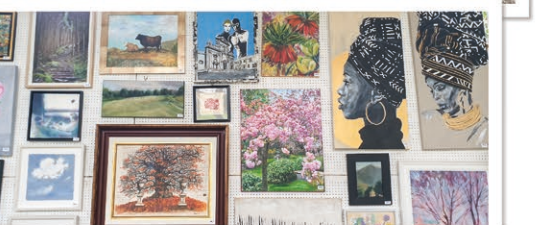
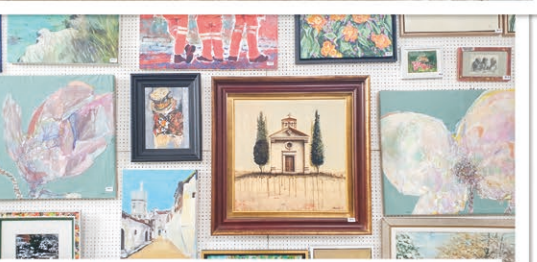
Our members tell us they are 'willing the grass to grow faster' on the fenced off part of the sports field. It has been treated and seeded and now it needs sunshine as well as rain to create a strong and healthy green turf. Much as it is needed, it should not be opened for use too soon, or the new grass will not withstand the pounding of all those little feet.

## Defibrillators in Holland Park

We have been asked to let our members know about the availability of defibrillators in Holland Park. All Parks Police vehicles are equipped with a defibrillator and there is also one in the Holland Park Police Office in the Stable Yard. If you find someone in Holland Park in need of a defibrillator (not breathing or appears to be suffering a heart attack), please call

999. This will alert the London Ambulance Service. Any call made to the London Ambulance Service concerning someone in our parks and open spaces, is automatically forwarded to the Parks Police duty phone. This is to ensure the fastest possible response until an ambulance arrives





The Friends of Holland Park

# The Annual Art 2023 Exhibition

At the ORANGERY  
Holland Park  
Kensington High Street London W8

Admission Free  
Saturday 15th April  
to  
Sunday 23rd April  
10.30am - 6.00pm

In Association with  
The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea  
Car Park Entrance: Abbot's Road, W14

Charity No: 281348



Illustration by Pauline Rafal



Ilchester Estates are  
delighted to sponsor  
The Friends of Holland Park  
Annual Art Exhibition  
for another year





We are fortunate at The Friends of Holland Park to have members as generous and imaginative as this year's artists in our exhibition. The results demonstrated the creative richness and the successful partnership we have with them (see photos, left).

We always felt that the economic climate was not in our favour, however 46 out of 71 artists sold work which is a higher percentage than last year. We had excellent footfall throughout the exhibition, particularly during the weekdays.

A huge thank you to all our artists and a special thank you to our Feature Artist, Pauline Rafal, whose enthusiasm and skills contributed to the overall look of the exhibition. Our heartfelt thanks to the Ilchester

Estates who have supported us for the past five years and we hope this will continue.

We would not be able to stage the exhibition without the assistance of the idverde park team with the initial set-up, including the plants and floral display.

The volunteer contribution was invaluable, ensuring the smooth running of the exhibition. Committee members, those who helped with the stewarding, artist check-in delivery and collection, the Mini Market and the hanging of the artwork - thank you. I would like to thank my wife Sandra and daughter Alex and as always Rhoddy Wood. See you in the Orangery in 2024.

*Gordon French*

## Kathleen Hall – sad news

It is with regret we record the death, when she was only a month short of her 100th birthday, of Kathleen Hall who was a trustee of The Friends for a number of years. She joined as a member in 1997 and came to our attention in the early 2000s. Our then editor asked if we would offer her a place on the committee because she would be able to give support on the technicalities of editing. Her last paid job before retirement had been as fulltime editor of an annual journal. We would have expected this to be of some literary organisation but it was about engineering or something similar. We were quickly impressed with her energy and application and we offered her the editorship of this newsletter when the incumbent retired but, unfortunately, this coincided



*Kathleen, centre front, at the 2015 AGM*

with the severe deterioration of her eyesight, making it impossible for her to use a computer. With typical determination, she remained a trustee, writing the occasional article by hand and delivering newsletters well into her 80s until overcome by the effort and danger of negotiating front steps on her round. We heard that she went on playing tennis at the local lawn tennis club until she had to admit that she could not see the balls. Her interest in and support of The Friends remained until the end and members will remember seeing her at events in The Orangery when

someone was available to give her a lift. RIP Kathleen. We were honoured to have had your support and expertise.

*Rhoddy Wood*

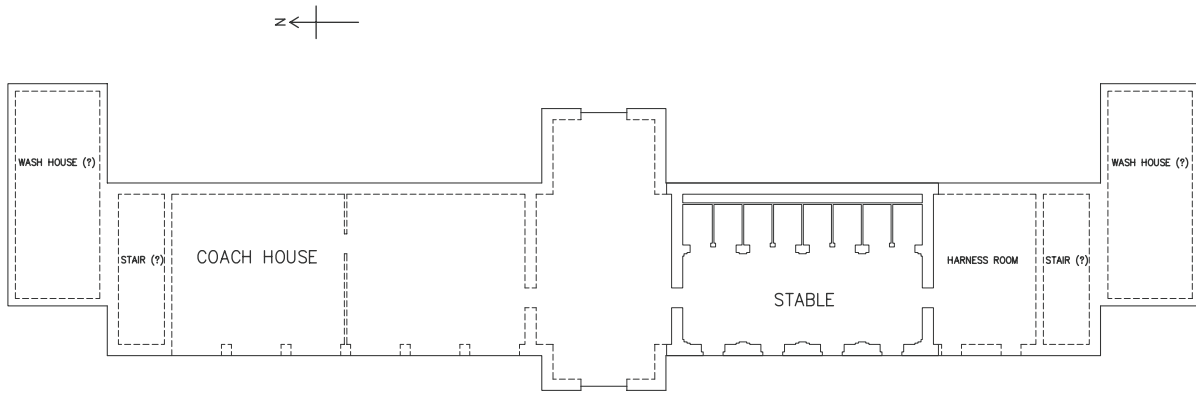
## *Corokia cotoneaster*

The evergreen *Corokia cotoneaster* is known as the 'wire-netting bush' for a very good reason. Just touch it and you will understand why. Most of the year it's a tangled, prickly mass of greenery but, in May, it is covered with small, starry yellow flowers and well worth going to look at. The shrub is beside the path just east of the Boy with the Bear Cubs statue, to the north of the café. Its natural habitat is rugged ground, where it can withstand harsh winds, including salt-laden coastal squalls. *Corokia* is derived from the Maori word for the plant, 'Korokio'.

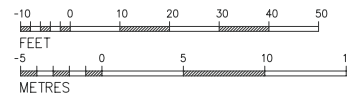


*Jennie Kerilewell*





*Reconstructed plan of the stable and coach house range based on a survey of 1796. Drawing by Mike Thrift*



*On Thurs. 30 March, as your chairman, I was lucky to have Prof. Malcolm Airs join me for lunch at The Belvedere Restaurant, formerly the Old Stables. We sat at a table in the window and I asked him what that exact spot would have looked like when it was a place for horses, and not for hungry humans. His reply was enchanting and he described, where the stalls would have been, which way they faced and talked about the ornate decoration. Later, he sent me an article he had written in 2003 for The Georgian Group Journal. It is full of interest, but too long to reprint in our newsletter. Here are some excerpts:*

Nearly £4,000 was expended on building a magnificent detached stable and coach house range, some 200 yards to the west of the house. This was an enormous sum, the equivalent of a complete country house for a less ambitious courtier and more than a match for the other notable stables of the day. Part of the fabric of the stable and coach house range survives and, in combination with the description in the buildings accounts and other illustrative sources, it is possible to reconstruct, with a high degree of confidence, the form of the building and its architectural detail. The earliest known representation is on a map of the manors of Earls Court and Kensington surveyed by Edward Bostock Fuller in 1695 and redrawn by J. Johnson and W. Brasier in 1734, where it is shown as a long rectangular block on a north-south alignment with a central projection on both east and west faces and flanking wings on the east side only. It was an impressive 240 ft. long and 34 ft. wide.

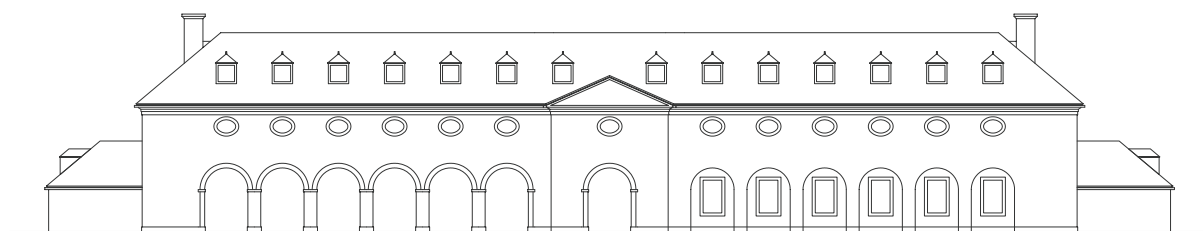
The building was erected by contract with individual craftsmen and the accounts consist of their bills

which are remarkably informative about its finished appearance. It was of brick with a tiled roof, two storeys high, with an attic lit by dormer windows. The brickwork on the east elevation, facing the house was painted in ochre to enhance its appearance, but the principal elevation to the west was left untreated.

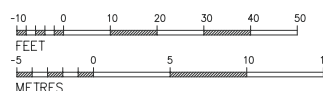
The coach house occupied the northern half of the building and its west front was dominated by 'six pairs of great coach-house doors with doorecases to them' of similar dimensions. There was a brick paved cellar beneath the coach house, divided by a single boarded partition and a wooden ground floor of 1½ in. planks. The ceiling of the coach house was plastered and the ground floor was divided into two compartments by a double-boarded partition. The impression is of a simple plain structure, with very little adornment, in contrast to the sumptuous stables which occupied the southern half of the building.

The stables were entered through the central archway and the west front was decorated by a blind arcade to match the coach house doors to the north. Internally, it was divided by a brick wall into two unequal compartments. The stalls were on the east side and were framed by a brick arcade separated by Doric pilasters with central keystones and a moulded cornice. The northern compartment had eight stalls within four arches and it is possible that there were a further four stalls within two arches in the southern compartment. Alternatively, this space could have housed the harness room and one of the staircases that gave access to the upper storeys. The walls and the piers were all paneled and the floors were of 3in. planks.





*Reconstructed west elevation with the coach house to the north and stables to the south. Drawing by Mike Thrift*



The stables at Holland House were undoubtedly intended for the great horses that would have been employed in hauling the coaches housed in the other part of the building. These were an expensive luxury and because of the poor quality of the English breed, were often imported from abroad. They were used in teams of either four or six and Lord Holland provided luxury accommodation for at least eight of them.

The floors) were of 3in. planks in conformity with a royal proclamation of 1624 which forbade the use of paved, pitched or graveled floors in the interests of the collection of saltpetre for the gunpowder industry. There were fireplaces and chimneys 'for drying horses clothes and making medicines'. The floor to ceiling height of the stable was an impressive 18ft. Above this was probably a hayloft with direct access for the feed into the racks below and lodgings for the grooms. The roof was lit by no less than 36 dormer windows, which must have been placed on both sides and probably over the east and west projections as well.

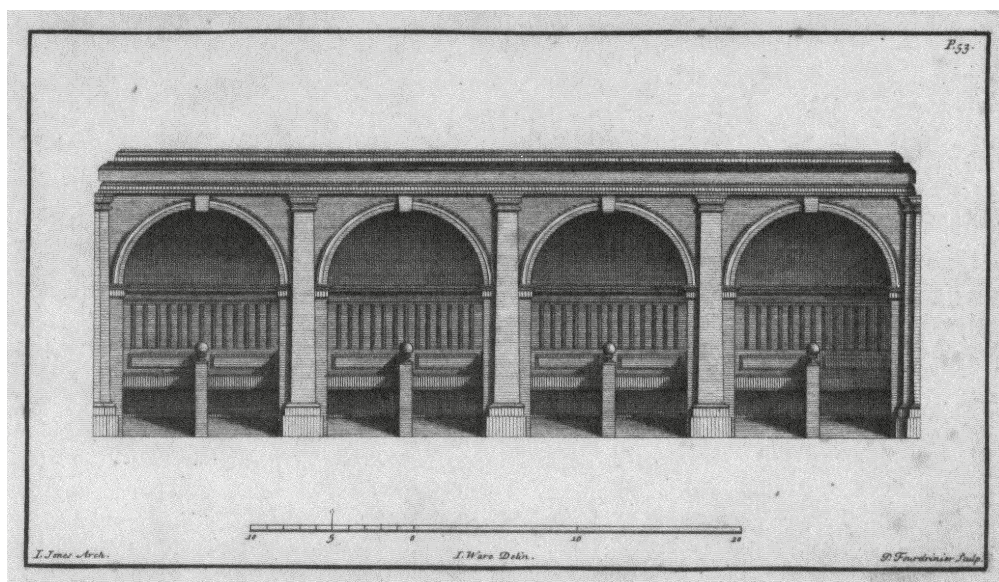
The basic plan remained unaltered throughout the eighteenth century. Its original use was finally

abandoned and it was partially demolished around 1812 in connection with the creation of the Portuguese garden to the east, later called the Dutch Garden. The surviving part of the 17C building was converted into a conservatory with an assembly room at its northern end. By 1850 the conservatory had become the orangery and the assembly room had been altered in a Jacobean style to form the summer ballroom with a belvedere on its roof.

Even though the whole of the upper storey and the roof have been removed, what remains is a precious part of what was one of the most ambitious equestrian developments of the court of Charles I.

© Professor Malcolm Airs

*Prof. Malcolm Airs studied the Holland House stables when working for the GLC Historic Buildings Division, and repairs to the building were being carried out following a fire in 1971. He never lost his interest and published the article from which the above excerpts were taken in 2003. Many of you will remember Malcolm giving a most interesting talk to The Friends in 2017, in the very same building*



*Internal elevation of the stalls of the stable*

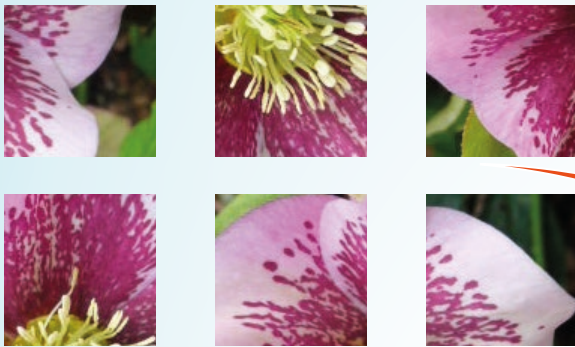


# Hi there **kids!**

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



## Flower fit



In the picture of a flower below there is a square missing. Which of the squares above fits the missing part of the picture?



## Did you know?



This is a sort of sundial for telling the time. You can do that by looking at which number the shadow falls on inside the metal circles. It isn't very accurate and doesn't work if the sun isn't shining, so you wouldn't want to use it if you want to know the right time to go to lunch!

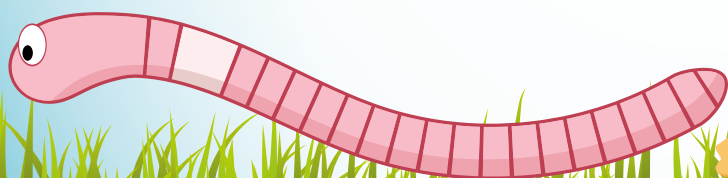
## Prickly, bristly things that dangle from plane trees... what are they?

These round balls are made up from lots of seeds, each one of them in its very own pointy seed case. These seed cases are called 'achenes', which comes from an ancient Greek word. The whole dangly bit eventually falls apart so that the achenes drop to the ground and find some soft earth to release the seed. Then they can start growing a new tree. Clever, isn't it?



## What happened to the thrushes on the sports field?

Have you noticed that the thrushes on the sports field have vanished? There's a reason for that... thrushes like worms to eat. The sports field has been sprinkled with sand but worms don't like sand. No worms = no dinner for the thrushes. So the thrushes have gone somewhere else to eat.





Bartletts Tree Experts were back in Holland Park to carry out their regular treatment of the trees in Chestnut Avenue. Horse chestnuts have a tendency to suffer from bleeding canker, which eventually kills the tree, but the disease can be suppressed by spraying the trunks with an organic product that causes the tree to activate its own defenses.

One of the other misfortunes that attack horse chestnuts is the leaf miner, which eats into the leaf and causes it to go brown. Though this disfigures the leaf canopy, it does not kill the trees. The horse chestnut leaf miner is the larvae of the moth *Cameraria obridella*. It is difficult to find effective sprays that do not kill other bugs and beasties, so recent treatment of the four horse chestnuts on the east edge of the car park has been confined to aeration and mulching. New treatments are being developed all the time and we wait to see if one can be created so that it is leaf miner specific. Meanwhile, we will monitor the health of these four trees.

Mulching was also on the agenda for the trees in the Commonwealth Copse at the bottom of the sports field. idverde gardener, Graham Godsell, dug out a neat circle round each tree and filled it with nourishing mulch.



*Fallen Cedar*



*Pink Hawthorne*



*Toona sinensis*

On 11 May, we lost a venerable old tree. At the most northern corner of the path that runs north/south along the east of the park was an old cedar of Lebanon, reputed to be the oldest tree in Holland Park. Over the years, failing branches had been removed, until it looked rather 'stumpy'. Eventually it succumbed and crashed to the ground, fortunately where it did no damage. That tree had always been a favourite of bird watchers, as great spotted woodpeckers had nested in it for years. Cedar is a wood valued by wood carvers and we wait to hear if we can use what remains to produce some sculptures for the borough's parks.

More cheering news is that we still have a pretty pink hawthorn in the park. We lost one, but this little tree at the south entrance to the D Garden was flowering enthusiastically in mid-May. Equally pink were the leaves of the *Toona sinensis* 'flamingo', just south of The Orangery.

If you are interested in trees, come and join the tree identification walk at 11am on 21 June. It will be led by Dr Alan Harrington, who knows the park's trees well and has the ability to make learning about trees quite fascinating. Details on the last page of this newsletter.

*Jennie Kettlewell*



*Flower from one of the red horse chestnut trees in Chestnut Avenue*



*Graham Godsell's neat work*



Each year, head gardener, Owen Rogers, comes up with a new design for the summer planting in the formal garden. This year, it should be no surprise that he has planned red, white and blue flowers in celebration of the coronation. Here are some of the plants you will see.



Clockwise from top left: *Celosia* 'Dragons breath'; *Salvia farinacea*; *Nicotiana* red and white; *Gaura* white; *Nepeta nervosa*; Rose 'Ruby Wedding'

All photos from internet.



What we expect to be a stunning display will help lessen the blow of the sad box hedging which has been demolished by the box tree caterpillar. There is too much hedging to risk replacing it with more box, because the ravenous little caterpillar is widespread in London and you can see the result in defoliated plants. RHS Wisley has been carrying out trials on candidate plants for replacing box and there are several alternatives but no clear winner. The plan for the Dutch Garden is to hedge our bets (sorry for the pun!) by planting 4 or 5



*Box tree caterpillar*

species, including *Lonicera nitida*, *Ilex crenata* and a yew, which will form neat trimmed edges to the flower beds. In each of the four corners of the garden, will be a bed with a number of trial species, clipped into domes. This planting will be carried out after the summer bedding has been removed, so we will see no winter bedding this year and the Dutch Garden will be 'work in progress' until the new hedge plants have established and we can enjoy the customary colourful spring bedding.

### Blue Badge tours on the history of Holland Park's gardens

The Dutch Garden was laid out in 1812, much as it is today, with flower beds edged by clipped low hedges and intersected by narrow gravel paths. The gardens around Holland House evolved over four centuries, from the original Jacobean gardens, and the pleasure grounds of the great house, to the formal plantings we can enjoy now. Owners of the estate imported little-known plants and trees from other countries and experimented with different styles of garden. Join one of the Blue Badge guided tours (20 June and 22 July) to hear about the history of these gardens. Booking details can be found on the last page of this newsletter.



Super spotter, David Jeffreys, saw yet another unusual bird sighting in Holland Park. He had previously seen a wheatear on the sports field, and this time he saw a ring ouzel on the North Lawn. He observed it for at least 45 minutes on 2 May and again on 4 May, so it was there for at least three days. The RSPB says “Ring ouzels can be found in upland areas of Scotland, northern England, north west Wales and Dartmoor. When on spring and autumn migration they may be seen away from their breeding areas, often on the east and south coasts of the UK where they favour short grassy areas”. David says they are known to crop up occasionally at London sites and he has little doubt that it was the seclusion of the fenced-off



Ring Ouzel



Goldcrest at bird ringing demonstration

North Lawn that was the attraction. Thank you David.

You can come and spot birds in the park for yourself, though you are unlikely to see a ring ouzel. On Saturday 10 June, ornithologist, Bill Haines, will be leading a bird identification walk for the Friends. It is free to attend and there is no need to book, just come along to the Café Yard at 9am. No dogs please, as they scare away the birds we come to see.

On Saturday 30 September, Bill will be back in the park to give a bird ringing demonstration in the Wildlife Enclosure. It will run from 7-11am, organised by the Ecology Service and sponsored by The Friends. It is also free to attend, with no need to book.

## Well done, Dave West

idverde named Dave West their ‘Colleague of the Month’ for March. You will all recognise him, as he is constantly out and about in Holland Park, making sure everything is as clean as it should be. He was nominated for his dedication to delivering high standards of work, and stepping up to help with duties in addition to his own. Dave Pickup, idverde’s Contract Manager, said: “Dave West has spent recent years working very hard as a park keeper. He has not only been completing his own core duties, but has recently helped to cover cleaning duties when the person who had had that role left the company. Now that Dave has moved permanently into the cleaning role, the standards have improved immensely, with compliments from council officers, the public and The Friends.”



The cover photo of the Sibirica Fountain was taken by Gilead Limor

## 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

### Summer 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](http://www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk)  
To book, email [susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com](mailto:susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com).

<i>June 20-22</i>	<b>Garden Trip</b> Three-day trip, staying in Buxton, Derbyshire, including a full day at Chatsworth. Coach leaves from and returns to Notting Hill Gate. Cost approximately £500. Please contact Susan Van Noorden if you are interested in joining this tour.
<i>Sundays 2 and 23 July, 2.00-5.30pm</i>	<b>Garden Opening</b> , Kensington Garden Club member, Harvey Groffman, will open his garden as part of the National Garden Scheme – 57 St Quintin Ave, W10 6NZ. Pay at the gate.
<i>Tuesday August 1, morning</i>	<b>London Visit</b> , Join this small group tour of roof gardens in the City of London. Limited numbers - £10. Call Jenny Taylor on 07973 832 672 to reserve a space.
<i>Saturday, September 9</i>	<b>Garden Trip</b> , Day visit to Aston Pottery (near Abingdon) and the Oxford Botanic Garden. Cost £40. Please contact Susan Van Noorden to book.
<i>Saturday September 23, 2.30pm</i>	<b>Club Meeting – Garden Competition Awards</b> , St George's Church. Meet this year's winners and see slides of their gardens. Q&A with afternoon tea to follow.

#### Opera Holland Park

Further information from [www.operahollandpark.com](http://www.operahollandpark.com)  
Tickets will be available by phoning 0300 999 1000

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

#### The Kensington Society

Keep up-to-date with Kensington Society events on [www.kensingtonsociety.org/events](http://www.kensingtonsociety.org/events).

#### RBKC Active for Life

Full details on [www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure](http://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.



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. 10 June	<b>Bird walk led by Bill Haines.</b> Free to attend. No need to book. Meet by The Friends' noticeboard in the Café Yard.	F	9-10.30am
Tues. 20 June	<b>Blue Badge guided tour.</b> NEW! History of the Holland Park Gardens. Must book. £10. See booking instructions below'	F	2.30-4pm
Wed. 21 June	<b>Tree identification walk</b> 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. 24 June	<b>Butterfly and Moth morning.</b> Free to attend but must book.	ES	10am-noon
Sat. 1 July	<b>RBKC Festival of Activity &amp; Wellbeing</b> on Holland Park sports field. No need to book.	RBKC	10.30am-4.00pm
TBC	<b>Dragonfly walk.</b> Free to attend but must book.	ES	10am-12noon
Tues. 18 July	<b>Pimm's in the Park</b> party for members of the Friends. Tickets @£25 can be bought from The Friends' website, by returning the order form enclosed with this newsletter, or by contacting Margaret Rhodes (see contact details at the start of this newsletter).	F	6-8pm
Sat. 22 July	<b>Blue Badge guided tour.</b> NEW! History of the Holland Park Gardens. Must book. £10. See booking instructions below.	F	2.30-4pm
TBC	<b>Summer plant walk.</b> Free to attend but must book.	ES	6-8pm
TBC	<b>Autumn bat walk.</b> Free to attend, but must book.	ES	7-9pm
TBC	<b>Herbal medicine walk.</b> Free to attend, but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Sat. 30 Sept.	<b>Bird ringing demonstration</b> in the Wildlife Enclosure. Free to attend. No need to book.	ES	7-11pm

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](http://www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or by contacting Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804 / [jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org](mailto: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](mailto:Gerald.Kelsey@idverde.co.uk).





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