



The Friends of Holland Park
Spring 2024

Membership card enclosed
if you have paid for 2024



The Friends of
Holland Park

Your Committee

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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

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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.

Wed 10 April 7.30 pm in The Orangery, Holland Park

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 hear your ideas. There is a great deal going on in the park. As always, there are real challenges and we have to learn to cope with floods as well as drought, and to manage our complex park with very tight RBKC budgets.

Our president, Eric Ellul, will chair the meeting and keep it all on track and on time.

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



The Orangery, Holland Park.

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.

After the meeting, you can join old friends and new over a glass of wine, while admiring the wonderful display of art in our annual exhibition. You might even be tempted to buy a piece.

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 10 April.

Holland Park Café

At the time of going to press, we have still not been informed about a decision on who will be operating the café from 1 April 2024. At this point, as we understand it, no decision has been formalised, though a lease has been drawn up by the council. As soon as we have news, which we might have by the time you are reading this, we will put up a notice on The Friends' boards in Holland Park.



Café from the south.

Summer party in the park

Wednesday, 3 July 2024, 6-8pm in the marquee, east of the Dutch Garden



Jennie Kettlewell

Save the date in your diary and we will give more information via email, on our park noticeboards and on our website, saying when and how you can book. The party is for members of The Friends only, though members are welcome to buy a ticket for a guest. It is the perfect place for a summer party, as the marquee offers a fine view of the seasonal planting in the formal garden and gives shelter from the sun, if we are lucky, and the rain if we are not.

Trustee, Nicholas Hopkins, preparing the summer party bar in 2022

Marouffages

Mao Wen Biao, the artist who painted these wonderful panels depicting a party in the grounds of Holland House, has worked on a surface retouch of the paintings. We are grateful to him for this and for his original work which all park visitors can enjoy.

We have always called them 'The Murals', but they are 'marouffages' because they are painted on canvas and not directly onto the plaster wall. That is unusual for work in the open air and is part of the problem the council is trying to solve. Damp has got into the fabric of the building on which the canvases are fixed and it is necessary to examine the state of the two panels on the left, to see if damp has affected the canvas. Richard Rogers Conservation is carefully securing the paint surface with Japanese tissue paper and is exploring the possibility of removing both of these canvases for conservation. While that is happening, any damp in the wall can be dealt with and the spaces will be filled with same size photographs of the paintings, kindly donated by Gilead Limor.



Japanese tissue paper applied to surface of panel 1.

The aim is to conserve these works so that all can enjoy them for a long time to come.



Ornithologist, Bill Haines, preparing the bird boxes.

Bird boxes

Look carefully, and you will see bird boxes fixed to trees around the park, especially in the woodland areas. These are safe places for wild birds to nest and they come with different size entry holes to suit different species of bird. They include boxes for Tree Creepers and Tawny Owls as well as the many small birds to be found in the park. Each box has a number for easy reference to what birds are nesting where. The Friends funded the cost of £1,081.

Mediterranean Bed

This is the long bed next to the old brick wall along the north edge of the Dutch Garden. When, in 2017, it was in need of refreshment, The Friends worked with the head gardener to choose appropriate plants. The agreement was 'for a structure provided by sizeable anchor plants interspersed with plants of varying size, shape and texture. Predominance of evergreen species meant the bed would look good in winter as well as summer. Bulbs and perennials were to add colour, but not so much that it clashed with the main attraction, the formal beds in the centre of the Dutch Garden.' The chosen species were bought and planted, but not maintained, and it became quite out of line with the agreed concept. You will have noticed recently that many plants have been removed and the bed has been cleaned out ready for new planting in line with the original plan.



Echium, from the original planting.

The late Andrew Whiteley left money to The Friends, and the donation of over £11,000 covered the original plants and a soak hose. In Andrew's memory, we would like to see this Mediterranean-themed bed looking resplendent and as originally intended.

Old Dairy

It's early days yet, but The Friends are intent on conservation of Holland Park's Old Dairy. It had been used as a store for the café, but another site was found for that purpose and the little building is now locked while work is scoped and costed. Part of the planning process is to research the history of

the Holland estate's farm, which was rented out for pasture to a commercial dairy company in the early 19th century. This dairy company, Tisdell & Tunks, may have sold milk to the Fox family and later to the Earls of Ilchester for use in the big house. It may be that the estate dairy was used for making butter and cream.

The 2024 Art Exhibition

2024 is a significant year for The Friends of Holland Park as we celebrate the 40th art exhibition. Initiated by the architect and then chairman of The Friends, Sir Hugh Casson, as a way of promoting both established and emerging artists, The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition has grown into a dynamic spring show in which 70+ local artists contribute artworks that are displayed in one of London's unique spaces, The Orangery in Holland Park.

To celebrate this 40th anniversary, I have not selected an individual Feature Artist – Holland Park will be the

feature and the focus of the Feature Artist panel. Our thanks go to Ilchester Estates, for whose unwavering support we are sincerely grateful.

Could all artists please remember to have their completed forms, showing details of all their exhibits, to me by Friday 8th March. To do this, they must already be a Friend 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 you to join us.

Gordon French



Art Exhibition 2024 Timetable

Friday, 8 March	Final date for artist exhibit details forms to be received to allow catalogue listing
Friday, 5 April	Artists deliver artworks to The Orangery, Holland Park, 8.30 – 11am <i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct</i>
Friday, 5 April	Hanging and judging, 11am – 6pm
Saturday, 6 April to Sunday, 14 April	Exhibition open to the public over 9 days, 10.30am-6pm Entry to visit exhibition free of charge
Sunday, 14 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6.15-7pm
Monday, 15 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9am-11am <i>Artists are particularly asked not to collect their works before 6.15pm on Sunday 14 April</i>

We are fortunate to have thriving pollinator habitats in Holland Park and that means we have lots of butterflies. The Friends have produced a fold-out leaflet with photos of all 16 species, explaining where and when you can find them in the park. There's useful information, such as the life cycle of a butterfly, behaviours, what makes an appropriate habitat, as well as some useful contacts to find out more. We are grateful to professional photographer Jed Corbett, Butterfly Conservation's Steve Bolton and Andrew Wood, a moth and butterfly recorder for Hertfordshire Natural History, for letting us use their stunning photos. Technical advice was given by Andrew



Wood, who leads the butterfly and moth walks in Holland Park. Phil Lyndon of Column Communications created the design and artwork, as he does for other Friends' brochures.

The leaflet costs a modest £3, and you can buy it from the Holland Park Reception, or from www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org (postage and packaging costs apply). You can also send a cheque for £3.80, which includes postage, with the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Butterflies are beautiful, so find out more by buying this leaflet. Then go and find them in the park.

Butterfly Volunteers Needed

The Ecology Service started regularly recording butterflies in Holland Park in 2023 to help inform future habitat works and contribute to the local and national species data records. This is done by walking a set route through the park each week from April through to September and noting what species can be seen.

The Ecology team are looking for more volunteers to help monitor the butterflies in 2024. 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.

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. The Ecology Service will be providing training on species identification and recording in the spring (more will follow on the park notice boards).

*Dr Alice Laughton,
head of the RBKC Ecology Service*

Ecology events



Each year the Ecology Service runs a series of very interesting walks and talks on the wildlife in Holland Park. These events are funded by The Friends, so that they can be free for you to attend. These events are very popular, so book early to avoid disappointment. Details of the walks, dates and how to book can be found at the back of this newsletter in 'Dates for your Diary'.

Bird ringing demonstration.

Payment for 2024. If the order form included with this newsletter is **green**, it means that at on **15 March** your membership discount card will expire, and you will no longer be entitled to the discounts that go with it. To enjoy this benefit, please renew your membership now. All subscriptions were due on 1 January, except for those who joined after 1 September 2023.

There are several ways to renew your membership. You can send a cheque, payable to The Friends of Holland Park, to Margaret Rhodes, 25 Princedale Road, London W11 4NW. You can also pay on our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org.

Standing order for 2025 onwards. You need to pay the 2024 membership subscription now, but it helps us if you complete a bank Standing Order form, as it means your membership payment will be paid by your bank each year, and you will not have to remember to do it. You cannot complete a Standing Order form on



our website, but you can use the one on the back of the green order form with this newsletter.

Donations. Some members choose to add a donation, which is appreciated. If you pay through our website, you can donate by clicking

on a very obvious yellow button on the home page.

Membership rates. Membership is £12 a year, or £9 for the over 65s. Joint subscriptions, for two people at the same address, cost £20, or £15 where both are over 65.

Our records are not infallible, so do contact Graham Franklin on 07802 761548 or ggfranklin3@aol.com if you have a query.

However you pay, we are most grateful for your support, as the more members we have the more influence we can bring to bear in achieving our priorities for this wonderful park.

Rhoddy Wood

It's not a Staff Vine



For many years we have been calling the creeper at the west end of the Dutch Garden wall, a Staff Vine. When *idverde* came to prune it this January, they did their research on how to prune a Staff Vine, but were puzzled. A Staff Vine has alternate branches and is evergreen. This creeper had opposite branches and is evergreen. So, what was it then? Owen Rogers and Marc Sinclair did their homework and identified it as a *Euonymus fortunei* 'Colorata', which is usually a bush or ground cover, but will climb if encouraged.

The leaves of 'Colorata' normally turn purplish-red in autumn, but this one doesn't. It has been artistically pruned and beautifully arranged on the wall.

Whatever it is, it's a stunning plant and had the most dramatic orange berries, before it was pruned. It should respond well and, come spring, we will see dark green leaves and rather insignificant greenish flowers. You will have to wait until autumn to enjoy the berries.

Jennie Kettlewell



Accounts

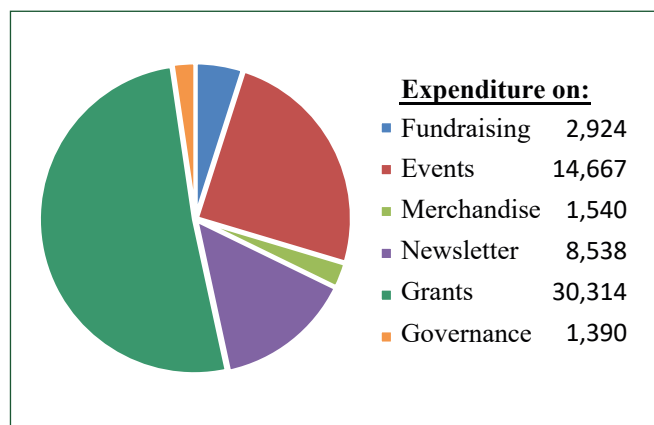
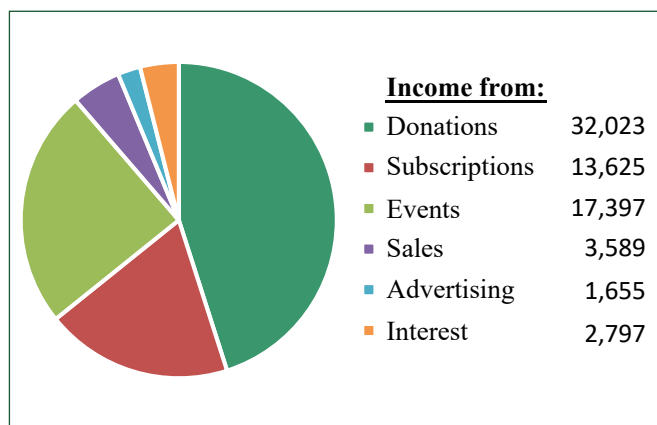
The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	2023 £		2022 £
Income from:			
Donations & legacies:			
Donations	32,023		16,938
Legacies	-	32,023	-
Charitable activities:			
Subscriptions	13,625		13,268
Other trading income:			
Events	17,397		20,391
Sale of merchandise	3,589		6,675
Advertising	1,655	22,641	1,566
Interest	2,797		716
Total incoming resources	71,086		59,554
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds:			
Fundraising	2,924		2,490
Event expenses	14,667		16,983
Cost of merchandise	1,540	19,131	3,831
Charitable activities:			
Newsletter	8,538		8,225
Grants & aims expenditure	30,314		62,244
Governance	1,390	40,242	1,397
Total resources expended	59,373		95,170
Net income/(expenditure)	11,713		(35,616)
Total funds brought forward	171,817		207,433
Total funds carried forward	183,530		171,817

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	£		£
Current assets:			
Debtors & prepayments	808		433
Deposit & current accounts	183,097	183,905	171,972
Creditors:			
Amounts falling due within one year		375	588
Net assets	183,530		171,817



- The 2023 accounts have been independently examined.
- Income for 2023 was higher than in 2022 (£71,086 v. £59,554) due to the generous and much-appreciated donations received.
- Event income, at £17,397 was slightly lower than in 2022 (£20,391), but event expenses were also lower, producing a profit on events of £2,730.
- Sale of merchandise decreased from £6,675 in 2022 to £3,589. This is likely to be because there was no honey for sale and because there was no new merchandise.
- Newsletter costs increased, largely as a result of the rising cost of paper.
- Grants to the park, at £30,314, were considered satisfactory. The higher figure of £62,244 in 2022 was due to 2021 donated money being spent on the Quiet Garden.
- The Gift Aid refund for 2023 was £2,629.
- Net income was £11,713.
- Total funds carried forward stood at £183,530, a slight increase on £171,817 in 2022. The challenge has been delays in approval of projects.

Romulo Café closes in Kensington

Romulo Café has been a member of our Friends & Neighbours discount programme since the start. Not only have the owners given our members a warm welcome, accompanied by stunning food, but they have sponsored Friends' events and given us vouchers for the Art Exhibition raffle. Sadly, burgeoning business rates have caused them to relinquish their Kensington restaurant. They have kindly said they will continue to offer raffle vouchers, but for their new venture, Kasa & Kin in Poland Street. We wish them well.



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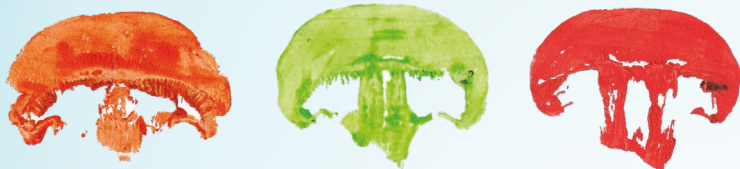
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Hi there **kids!**

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



Supermarket mushrooms

Make pictures from fruit and veg!

It's fun to use fruit or vegetables to print patterns on paper. You will need:

- ▶ Some fruit or vegetables, such as mushrooms, broccoli or an apple.
- ▶ Clean, white paper to print on.
- ▶ Acrylic paint and a paint brush.
- ▶ Newspaper to lay it all out on.
- ▶ Kitchen towel for wiping paint off your hands.

Start by cutting the fruit or vegetable in half so you have a flat surface to print from. Lay the cut piece on kitchen towel with the print side facing you.

Paint the print surface evenly with your chosen colour of paint – not too thick, and make sure there are no lumps of paint. Carefully press the painted surface to the piece of paper you want to print on.

Press lightly so that the paint sticks to the paper.

Remove your vegetable carefully and admire the result.



Broccoli florets look like trees

Be a Snow Drop spotter

These pretty little plants, with white petals, are some of the first plants to flower in the year.

They can even push up through snow. In France they are called 'pierce neige', which means snow piercer.

There aren't many pollinators around so early in the year, so snowdrops spread by dividing their bulbs. More bulbs mean more plants.

Look out for snowdrops between the two fences, just south east of the Lord Holland statue.



Holland porkers



Did you know that there used to be a farm in the grounds of Holland House?

The family who lived in the house wanted meat to eat and for the dinner parties they gave. The farm sold what wasn't needed by the family and, in 1799, it sold a big pig for £3. That's £283 in today's money. They called the pigs **Porkers**, just as we do today!

We need your help to protect the wildlife in Kensington and Chelsea. We understand that, for many people, feeding the animals is an important part of your visit, and something that children particularly enjoy. Unfortunately, with so many visitors to our parks, the overall result of thousands of visitors feeding wildlife is causing more harm than good.



Robins find their own food.

- Processed 'human' food is not good for wildlife. They haven't evolved to eat the same foods as us, and so these foods can cause harm. Bread doesn't contain much nutritional value but fills up the birds' stomachs so that they don't forage for foods they would normally eat, which can lead to malnutrition.

Our parks are managed to provide enough food to sustain the wildlife that lives here, whether through planting of nectar-rich flowers, hedges and trees that bear berries for birds, or well-managed soils that maintain a wealth of worms and other invertebrates that birds and small mammals feed on. It's vital that we maintain this balance to support biodiversity in our parks and green spaces.

Here are some of the reasons why it's important to stop feeding the animals:

- The parks contain enough food to support the wildlife that lives here. When opportunities come up, our teams plant trees, hedges and shrubs that provide the berries, nuts and seeds that animals love.
- Feeding encourages overcrowding of bird populations. Large numbers of crows and magpies that arrive bully the smaller song birds in the park, reducing the numbers that successfully breed here.
- Animals that are used to being fed by humans now behave unnaturally around people, putting themselves and visitors at risk. For example, squirrels that have become too confident are more at risk of attack by a dog.
- Food such as bread or rice left on the ground attracts rats and other vermin, which is not good for other wildlife, or local residents and businesses.
- Uneaten food thrown into ponds or on banks which has been left to rot leads to a decline in water quality. This in turn results in more algae growing on the water, more disease and pests, and causes animals and plants to become sick and die.
- Encouraging large groups of birds to gather creates an excessive amount of bird droppings, which is detrimental to the health of the soil, and increases the need to clean park benches and other features.
- The high numbers of squirrels encouraged by feeding damage and kill trees.
- Throwing food for birds encourages them to group together, which can increase the spread of diseases, like bird flu.

Dr Alice Laughton, Ecology Service Manager

Native species hedges



Internet



Internet. BBC Gardeners' World



Jennie Kettlewell

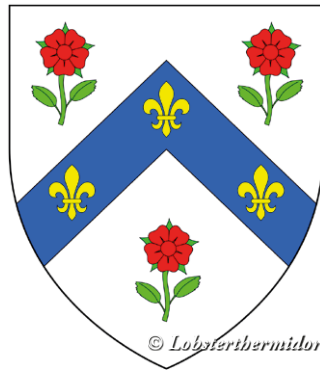
*L-R: Sloe berries;
Spindle berries,
Guelder rose*

It is excellent news that work is to start on planting native species hedges around the fenced enclosures in the north of the park. It will look much more attractive than fencing and the wildlife will appreciate the berries and flower pollen. Planting will be carried out by volunteer groups, overseen by idverde. You can look forward to Field Maple, Spindle, common Hazel, Blackthorn, Guelder Rose and common Alder. The Friends funded the cost of £3,145.

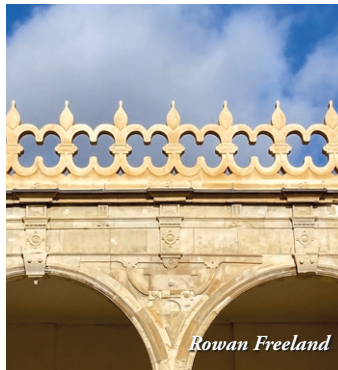
The story of Holland House begins with Walter Cope. He was born in about 1553 to a family of courtiers which owned lands in Oxfordshire and Nottinghamshire. His great-grandfather, William Cope, was Cofferer to Henry VII and his grandfather, Sir Anthony Cope, was Chamberlain to Queen Catherine Parr.

Walter's second cousin Mildred Cooke had married William Cecil (later Lord Burghley, Queen Elizabeth I's chief minister) in 1545. Through that connection, Walter was appointed a Gentleman Usher to Lord Burghley at the age of about 20. Over the ensuing 20 years he earned Lord Burghley's trust, becoming his secretary in 1593, and the trusted friendship of Burghley's second son Robert Cecil, who followed his father as Elizabeth I's chief minister in 1596.

When Elizabeth I died in March 1603, Robert Cecil appointed Walter, then aged 50, to the delegation sent to Scotland to greet the new King, James VI and I, and accompany him to London. James made a leisurely progress south, enjoying the adulation of his new subjects and engaging in his passion for the chase. A modern historian wrote that "he hunted everything that ran and knighted everything that crawled". Walter Cope's knighthood came roughly half-way through the journey to London, in Worksop. We do not know how much he had needed to crawl; the connection with Robert Cecil might have been sufficient.



Cope coat of arms.



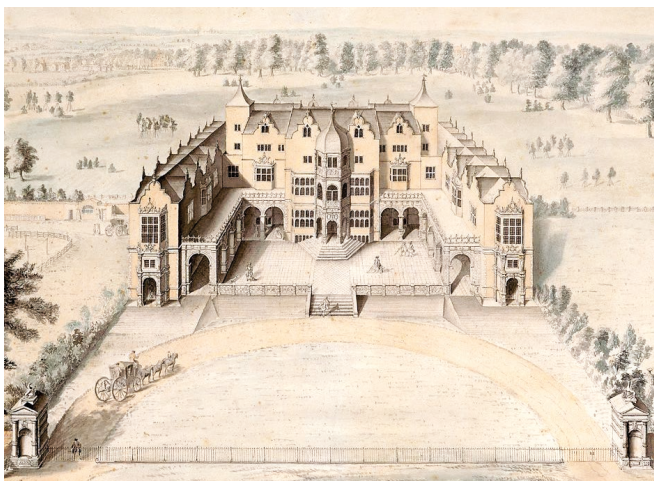
Fleurs-de-lis on Holland House.

Sir Walter's relationship with the King bore fruit over the following years. He was appointed a Gentlemen Usher of the Privy Chamber in 1607, Chamberlain of the Exchequer in 1608, Keeper of Hyde Park in 1611, and, in 1612, Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries.

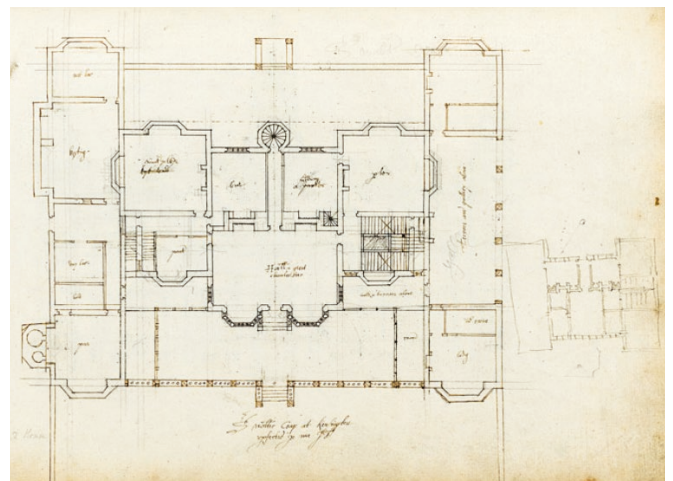
It is sometimes supposed that what became Holland House was the fruit of the wealth which this royal favour brought. However, Walter had acquired much of the estate and started building the house by 1605, and we can look elsewhere for the sources of his wealth. His father Edward Cope was a substantial landowner in Oxfordshire, and his mother was an heiress in her own right. Although Walter was the second surviving son, he appears to have inherited land from his parents, both of whom died when he was young.

He also benefitted from the Cecil connection. Lord Burghley was Master of the Court of Wards and Liveries, and at his behest, Walter, aged 21, was appointed to the lucrative office of "feodary" for wards in Oxfordshire in 1574.

Walter was an active entrepreneur, building his fortune through money lending, property dealing, and financing international trade expeditions. He collected a substantial "cabinet of curiosities" at his town house in the Strand, and a distinguished



Holland House from the south, from a drawing by J. Vardy, 1752



Architectural plan of Holland House by John Thorpe, 1605.

collection of paintings, including some Holbeins. He also joined the Society of Antiquaries.

In 1591, aged 38, Walter purchased the manor of West Town, part of the de Vere family's estate of Kensington, and moved into the ancient manor house, where Oakwood Court, behind St Barnabas Church, now stands. The moat surrounding the house survived until the end of the nineteenth century.

Over the following 20 years, Walter acquired from the de Vere family the other three Kensington manors – Earl's Court, the Abbot's Manor (which embraced Kensington church and Campden Hill) and Knotting Barnes (now Notting Hill); and sold (for a profit) the eastern half of the Abbot's Manor and all of Knotting Barnes.

In 1605, when he was 52, he built a new house on the southern slope of Campden Hill. Referring to the plan and the later print, the central portion was the original house (the wings to either side were added by his son-in-law). Although surprisingly modest compared to the prodigy houses built by many wealthy courtiers in

Elizabethan and Jacobean England, it impressed the locals, who called it Cope's Castle.

The King was less impressed. He and Prince Charles stayed in November 1612 following the death of Prince Henry, but he "was quickly weary" reported a contemporary "because he said the wind blew through the walls, that he could not lie warm in his bed."

Sir Walter died in 1614, aged 61. He left the estate to his "well beloved wife" Dorothy, on condition that she did not remarry. So when in 1621 she married Thomas Fowler (whom she presumably loved more than her chilly house in Kensington), the estate passed to the Cope's only child, Isabel, wife of Sir Henry Rich.

No identified portrait of Sir Walter or personal effects survive. His family coat of arms, which includes fleurs-de-lys in the chevron, provided the decoration for the balustrade of the loggia on the house, which still survives. But this was probably built for Lady Rich.

Rowan Freeland

Rowan is one of the Blue Badge Guides who leads tours covering the history of Holland House.

Blue Badge tour dates

Rowan Freeland and his Blue Badge colleague, Leila Sukiur, will run more tours in Holland Park in 2024. The first is on Thursday 7 March, when you can hear stories of the history of Holland House and the families who lived there. It's the last chance to see the frontage of Grade-1-listed Holland House before the site is closed for the opera. You can find more tour dates and how to book in the Dates for your Diary section at the back of this newsletter.

Award for Holland House Conservation

The Friends are delighted, but not surprised, that Allies & Morrison have been accorded a Civic Trust Regional Finalist award for their conservation work on Holland House. The work was carried out over 2021/22, and the award will appear in the Civic Trust 2024 Commemorative Brochure of Winners.



East wing of Holland House.

Parks Police

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.**

Spring 2024

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 2, 2024, 2:30pm</i>	Club Meeting , Rosie Hardy of Cottage Garden Plants will give a talk: 'From Back Garden to Gold, Her Chelsea Story'. Plants for sale.
<i>Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 11am</i>	London Visit , RHS Lindley Library. 'Collections Up Close' tour highlighting the rare books, botanical art and photographic collections.
<i>Tuesday April 16, 2024</i>	Garden Visit , Coach from Notting Hill Gate to Polesden Lacey (National Trust) in Surrey. £50 for KGC members.
<i>Tuesday May 14, 2024</i>	Garden Visit , Coach from Notting Hill Gate to Rothschild Garden/Lynn Garden, Ascott, Buckinghamshire. £50 for KGC members.
<i>June 18-20, 2024</i>	Garden Holiday , Coach from Notting Hill Gate to Canterbury with hotel accommodation for two nights and visits to five gardens. Cost circa £550 TBA.

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>28 & 30 May. 1,7,12,15,18,22 June at 7.30pm & 9 June at 2pm</i>	Tosca by Giacomo Puccini
<i>4,6,8,11,13,14,19,21 June at 7.30pm & 16 June at 2pm</i>	The Barber of Seville by Gioachino Rossini
<i>2,4,6 July at 8pm</i>	Edgar by Giacomo Puccini
<i>19,24,26,31 July & 2 August at 7.30pm</i>	Acis and Galatea by G.F. Handel
<i>17,20,23,25,27,30 July & 1,3 Aug at 7.30pm</i>	Il Segreto di Susanna/Pagliacci by Ermano Wolf-Ferrari & Ruggero Leoncavallo.
<i>7,8,9,10 Aug at 7.30pm & 10 Aug at 2pm</i>	The Yeoman of the Guard by Gilbert and Sullivan

The Kensington Society

A programme of lectures, talks, walks and visits is being planned for 2024 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.



The Cover photo of the Dutch Garden spring bulbs was taken in 2023 by Gilead Limor, who is the designer of this newsletter.

Dates for your Diary: Events in Holland Park




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.

Thurs. 7 Mar.	Blue Badge guided tour. History of Holland House and the families that lived there, led by Leila Sukiur. Last chance to see conserved building before it closes for the opera season. Must book. £10	F	10.30am-noon
Wed. 13 Mar.	Amphibian Walk , led by Matthew Rose. Free but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Thurs. 4 April	Spring Tree Walk , led by Trevor Bowyer. Free but must book.	ES	5-7pm
Sat 6 - Sun 14 April	Friends Art exhibition in the Holland Park Orangery. Free to visit.	F	10.30am-6pm
Wed. 10 April	Friends AGM. 7.30pm. 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.		
Wed. 17 April	Blue Badge guided tour. Statues, sculptures and Art in the park, led by Rowan Freeland. Must book. £10	F	10.30am-noon
Wed. 24 April	Spring plant walk. with Dr Mark Spencer. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Sun. 28 April	Dawn chorus bird walk , led by David Darrell-Lambert. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	5-7am
Sun. 28 April	Family Bird Song walk , led by David Darrell-Lambert. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	8-10am
Thurs. 9 May	Herbal Medicine Walk led by Janine Gerhardt. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Wed. 15 May	Bat Walk led by Philip Briggs. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	8.30-10.30pm
Wed. 15 May	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. 18 May	Blue Badge guided tour , History of the Gardens and Pleasure Grounds. Led by Leila Sukiur. Must book. £10	F	2.30-4pm
Sat. 8 June	Tree Ecology Walk led by Greg Packman. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	Time TBA
Tues. 11 June	Blue Badge guided tour. History of the gardens. Led by Rowan Freeland. Must book. £10	F	2.30-4pm
Sat. 15 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
Sat. 29 June	Butterfly and Moth morning. Free to attend but must book.	ES	10am-noon

The Ecology Service (ES) events can be booked on Eventbrite.

The Friends' (F) Blue Badge tours can be booked on our website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or by contacting Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804 or 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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