

*The Friends of Holland Park
Summer 2024*





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

Data & Technology Phillip Fei Hou



**The Friends would like to thank RBKC City Living/Local life
for the generous funding of this summer 2024 newsletter.**

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.

Summer party in the park



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

Eventually the spring will come. And then the summer. Let's hope we get a fine summer evening to celebrate our Friends' party in the park. The date is Wed. 3 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.



Dutch Garden marquee

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. Please do book early, as we need to plan the catering.

Phillip Fei Hou – new trustee

We are delighted that Phillip Fei Hou has agreed to become a trustee of The Friends.

He joined The Friends after spotting a plea for volunteers and soon became a regular at the pop-up events in the park. He readily engaged park visitors and got them interested in what we do. Every so often, the trustees have got stuck trying to do something, and Phillip said 'Oh I can help with that'. And he did. Most were tech solutions where he could coax data into something useful.



Phillip Fei Hou

The reason he can do all this is that he holds a BSc in Physics and another in Software Engineering. He taught physics and enjoyed nurturing young minds with a passion for science, before transferring to work in the software industry. Next, he ventured into life as an

entrepreneur, running his own business for over 30 years. So he has technical skills and business skills, gained from software development, tech consulting, the restaurant industry, digital publishing and property investment. That translates into a lot of very useful support for The Friends, and the trustees decided they would like him to join the committee.

Phillip and his wife live not far from the park and know it well. He is a team player and we enjoy his company, as we all do our best to run The Friends as successfully as we can. There's one other thing: Phillip's dog has been taught by him to be exceedingly polite and well-behaved, so he hasn't forgotten his teaching skills!

Welcome Phillip. The trustees look forward to working with you.

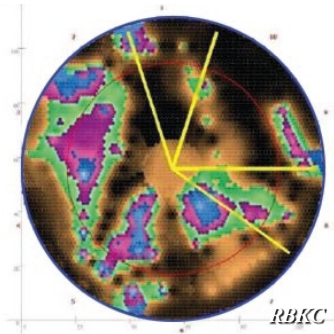
Peter Barrett saves the day

Technical problems with Mailchimp can be challenging and we got thwarted with a mailing one weekend in March. It was thanks to Peter Barrett of Rapidpage, who manage The Friends' website, that it was sorted out. In spite of being unfamiliar with

Mailchimp, having no responsibility for our account, and it being a weekend, he worked out what changes were needed and gave us the all clear. Should the problem recur, we now have instructions to deal with it. Thank you Peter.

Bolle's poplar

Many of you will have noticed the loss of the very big tree just inside the Ilchester Gates, a Bolle's poplar. Sadly, it was badly diseased and unsafe with so many people walking underneath it. Bartlett's tree experts warned some years ago that it was one to keep an eye on. When the RBKC Arboricultural team checked it in 2020 they found fungus at the base. At that stage it was crown reduced to remove weight from the top so that it could be kept a little longer. In March 2024 a further Picus test showed extensive decay at the base. It had to go. The decay was caused by Ganoderma bracket fungus which eats slowly but relentlessly into the tree. Picus is a non-invasive way of determining the extent of decay inside a tree and it works by taking readings of soundwaves passing through the trunk and measuring the density. This can reveal damage in an otherwise healthy-looking tree.



Picus test analysis.

Water Management in Holland Park

For a long time, there has been discussion about managing torrential rain which causes small rivers running through the park, taking soil with it and gouging out troughs in the woodland paths. The water pools where we don't want it, the north lawn



Rainwater flow past West Woodland enclosure.

becomes a quagmire and too much water channels out of the park and into the sewerage system. The new flood management officer in the town hall understands how to manage water in parks and is developing a proposal, with Parks Management, to absorb rainwater near where it falls and channelling surplus to where it can be used. The Friends have been consulted and support the concept. We will bring you further news when it is available.



Panel 2 prior to damage.

Marouflages

The story continues. Alvar Mailan from Richard Rogers Conservation has painstakingly removed panels 1&2 of the paintings under the arcade by the Iris Garden. The panels are now back at RRC's studios where the canvas backing is being repaired following discovery of mould. We await news of the next development and of when it will be possible for artist, Mao Wen Biao, to retouch the surfaces of these two panels. After nearly two years, we still await to hear when the Council will do the work to prevent water ingress from the walkway above.

By the time you read this, you may have had a chance to visit the Holland Park Café under its new ownership. Daisy Green Foods signed the lease in late April and has wasted no time in getting the café up and running, even if not with its full offering just yet. The new name is yet to be decided.

Daisy Green is a family business, run by Prue Freeman and her husband Tom Onions. Founded in 2012, they have grown the business and now have a mix of cafés and restaurants across London, with each venue individually designed to fit its local environment and community. They live near Holland Park, which means they know the park well and can tailor our café to what park visitors really want.

The main point of a café is to offer really good coffee at a fair price and that is something on which the owners pride themselves. To go with the coffee there will be a choice of cakes and pastries. There are light dishes on the menu, made with responsibly-sourced fresh ingredients in a Mediterranean style, with accents of Asian flavours. That means plenty of choice, whether you want a quick coffee, a meal, or one of Daisy Green's special breakfasts.

The long-awaited changes to the service area will be made, once agreed, so that the frustrating queues at busy periods are a thing of the past. No doubt the interior will be freshened up, while respecting the nature of the listed buildings in our park. Table service



Prue Freeman, founder of Daisy Green.

will be a new feature, which will be a benefit in that the tables will be clean, and it will also help reduce the queues. That doesn't mean you can't go to the counter and buy a coffee and sandwich to go.

Many of our members have asked if the café staff, under the management of Ade Phillips, will still greet us in the café. We are delighted to tell you that they will.

We understand the opening hours will be 7.30am to half an hour before dusk, when the park closes. A limited number of appropriate evening events may take place, with the agreement of Parks Management. It is good news that Daisy Green is community-focused, both in terms of relationships and in terms of donating to local charities. They operate an environmentally friendly business, and encourage keep cups.

At this point we would like to say a big thank you to Cooks and Partners, who have run the café for the past 17 years and who have co-operated, on so many occasions, with The Friends.

The Holland Park Café has always been a welcome meeting point for local residents and all park visitors, and Prue Freeman intends to keep it that way. So, drop in and sample the new coffee, snacks and meals, and bring your friends. We very much look forward to working with the new owners and to supporting their successful business.

RBKC Podcasts



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

The Council is making a series of podcasts (audio files that you can listen to with your computer or smartphone) about the parks and green spaces in the borough, with eight episodes of 'Parks Uncut' available so far.

1. Holland Park, including a contribution from the chairman of The Friends.
2. Parks in North Kensington
3. Parks in Chelsea
4. Ecology, health and wellbeing

5. Trees
6. Meet the parks contractor, idverde
7. What it's like to work in our parks
8. Community kitchen gardening and volunteering

Each episode is around 20 minutes long and you can find them all on the Council's Amazon Music channel by scanning this QR code:



A record number of members attended the AGM this year, with some 70 wanting an update on park matters and keen to participate with questions and comments. All votes were carried.

- Minutes of the 2023 AGM were approved
- Accounts for 2023 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 2023: repairs to the damaged terra cotta bricks, retouching of the surface of the marouflage paintings under the Iris Garden arcade, border hedging for the woodland enclosures, installation of 50 bird boxes and continuation of the proactive tree health programme.

Rhoddy Wood reported that 100 members had joined since the 2023 AGM but that members

failing to renew in January meant the net increase was just 15. She encouraged members to pay by standing order if they did not already do so.

Chairman, Jennie Kettlewell, explained the continuing challenges of high visitor numbers resulting in erosion of grass and compaction of ground, for which there is no simple solution. Action is being taken to improve the area round the Walking Man statue. Drought and torrential rain will be managed through a water-management plan. Current projects are conservation of the marouffages and the Old Dairy. JK informed members about the current licensing application for the Café, which was a concern due to proposed late opening. She said this may be misleading as the lease stipulated closure when the park closes, save for some 10 events p.a. Members asked JK to respond to the application by saying the condition for not objecting was the existence of the lease.

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

Matthew Rose wins award

The Ecology Centre is proud to announce that Matthew Rose, one of their Education Team, has been awarded the 2024 Robert J. Jones Award in Environmental Education by the Educator's Trust, the charitable arm of the Worshipful Company of Educators.

This national award, is given to an outstanding practitioner in environmental education. Matthew was nominated by Dr Melissa Glackin and Shirin Hine of Kings' College London, having worked with them in support of an Environmental Education Masters course, PhD research and the publication of the Heartwood collection of essays. In the award citation, Matthew was described as 'an exceptional, knowledgeable and professional environmental educator, who has offered his community an inspirational personable service, provided with care



Matthew being presented with his award by the Master of the Worshipful Company of Educators at the Merchant Taylors'

and humility'. The Friends agree with that and send congratulations to Matthew.

I asked Jennie Kettlewell, your chairman, if I could have a small piece in this edition of the newsletter. This is my thank you to every member of The Friends for the support you provide. My role exists to care for the parks and make them as good as they can be for everyone. This is the core function of my job but it takes a small army of people from all across the Council and community to truly make this happen.

I don't take for granted the effort, commitment and support that you all give to the park and its visitors and how lucky we are to have such dedicated friends.

With your help and support we are making this park more accessible, allowing members of our community who could previously never use the park to visit and feel safe and provided for. We are caring for our trees and giving them the best chance to thrive with a programme of proactive tree health works. And thanks to you the Ecology Centre are able to make their adult education programme free to all.

So thank you all from me and the team.

Monica Castelino, RBKC Parks Manager

Response from Jennie Kettlewell

I was very pleased when Monica Castelino told me she wanted to write a piece for the newsletter. She is always so busy, yet remembered and found the time.

We are fortunate to have a great team of Council officers to run our park – Parks Management, the Ecology Service, the Project Management team and the Parks Police. They all work closely together and

with contractors idverde. Most visitors comment on how wonderful the park is, **and it is wonderful**, but they are rarely aware of the sheer quantity of very hard work that goes into making it so. The Friends appreciate being included in all matters related to the park and it is for that reason we can enjoy making a positive contribution.



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Hi there kids!




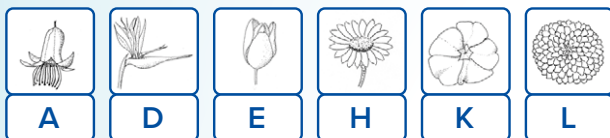
This page is for you, with fabulous things to discover about Holland Park and fun activities to do.

Are you a codebreaker?

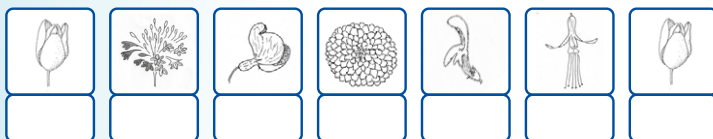
Can you work out the words using the code?

Here are the clues for working out the code. Each letter of the alphabet that is shown below is represented by a flower picture. There are three words in the answer.

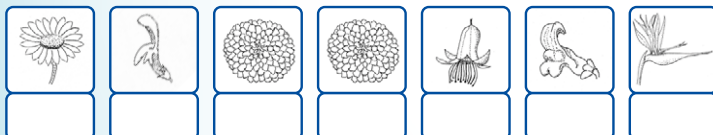
So, if the word begins with this flower , it means it starts with an H. For each of the three words, write the letter of the alphabet beneath the flower picture.



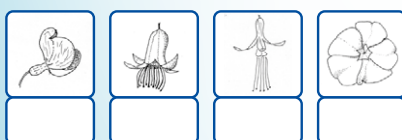
First word



Second word



Third word



Did you know?

You usually see grey herons in Holland Park near water because they look for fish or frogs to catch and eat.

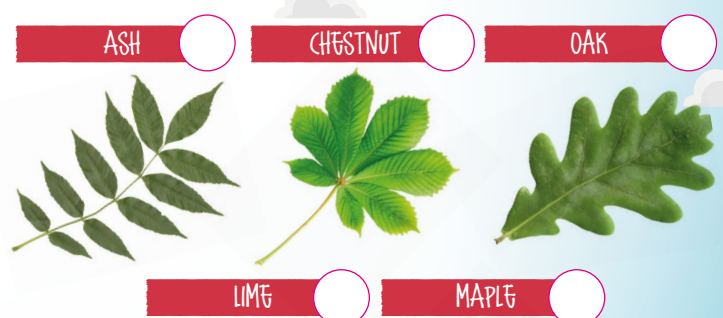
They stand very still for a long time and then dart into the water to catch a tasty meal. Herons nest in trees, but they don't nest in Holland Park. They are visitors here. When they fly, they are quiet until you hear them make a sound like 'kraank'. Even if they are quiet, you will notice them flying over your head because they have very big wings.



It's springtime!

Spring is the season when the weather gets warmer and days get longer.

These changes wake up nature. The birds and animals have their babies, and the trees burst into life with buds that turn into bright green leaves. See if you can spot these leaves on trees in the park. Put a tick in the circle next to each leaf you find.



There is a strange arrow-shaped mark set into the stone near the base of one of the Stable Yard buildings, next to the entry to the new toilets. What is it? No-one seemed to know.

Once RBKC Senior Project Manager, Sarah Brion, explained it was an Ordnance Survey Bench Mark, I could set about finding out more. I discovered that Bench Marks are used by surveyors as a way of measuring height in comparison to a similar mark of known height (a *fundamental benchmark*) This might be height in relation to sea level, the mean sea level for this measuring system in mainland Britain being set at Newlyn on the coast of Cornwall.

Bench Marks and their significance are recorded, though full records may no longer be kept and the Bench Marks themselves are no longer routinely maintained. Some



Bench Mark on Stable Yard building.

have become unreliable, especially where the buildings are subject to subsidence. London is said to have some 18,000 of these marks and the last traditionally-cut arrow-style benchmark was carved on a milestone located outside The Fountain pub in Loughton, in 1993.

The horizontal mark at the apex of the arrow was used to support a stable 'bench' for a levelling stave to rest on – hence 'benchmarks'. This design ensured that a stave could be accurately repositioned in the future and that all marks were uniform.

The OS records show the Stable Yard Bench Mark was last verified in 1973, though it is not clear what Fundamental Bench Mark our Holland Park mark relates to. Maybe it tells you where mean sea level is – should you need to know!

Planting in Holland Park

Work continues to implement the Holland Park Woodland Management Plan and you can see where idverde's Gerry Kelsey has led his teams of volunteers to plant hedging whips along the borders of the woodland enclosures. It is good to see planting in the park once again, and planting trees in carefully selected spaces will be next. The Woodland Trust says: "Trees are a powerful weapon in the fight against climate change, absorbing and

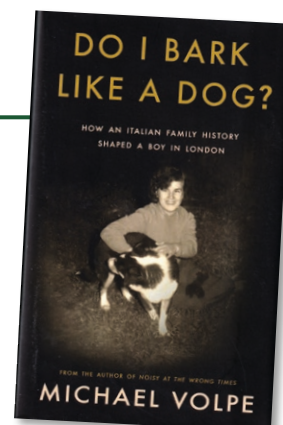


A team of volunteers.

locking up a staggering 213 million tonnes of carbon in UK woodlands. Yet the woods that we need so vitally are themselves impacted by climate change – spring now arrives on average 8.4 days earlier than the first part of the 20th century which means some wildlife is struggling to keep up. Woodland wildlife is already under immense pressure..." We must ensure that future generations can enjoy tranquil green space in Holland Park.

Michael Volpe's new book

Former General Director of Holland Park Opera, Michael Volpe, is remembered by many opera-loving Friends. On 29 April, he was back in Holland Park for the launch of his second book 'Do I bark like a Dog?' The launch was at Daunts Bookshop, Holland Park Avenue, where his family and friends joined the celebration. The book tells the story of his Italian roots and is a testimony to his mother and her family. Many extraordinary events took him from his childhood in Fulham to a life in opera where he has been a significant influence, being awarded an OBE for services to opera.



Dr Mark Spencer led the spring wildflower walk in Holland Park in his customary style of deep scientific knowledge merged with enthusiasm and the ability to fascinate the 16 or so people who came to hear what he had to say.

He started with some 'garlicky' plants right next to the Ecology Centre. First up was Three-cornered Garlic, or Leek to some (*Allium triquetrum*), which he explained was often confused with Wild Garlic (*Allium ursinum*), also known as Ramsons. It is equally often confused with white forms of bluebells (*Hyacinthoides* spp.). For the observant, Three-cornered Garlic is easily distinguished by its sharply triangular stem and the fact that the flowers all sprout from the same point at the top of the stem (or 'scape' in botanical parlance). The flowers themselves droop downwards and the leaves are narrow and strap-like. In contrast, the flowers of Wild Garlic, though also emerging from a single scape, are more upright and 'starry' and the edible leaves are broader. The hybrid bluebell is different again, in that the flowers each attach separately to the stem. Mark had lots to say about bluebells, but that's another story.

The second flower Mark demonstrated was Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolate*). He invited the group to taste a little bit of one of the lower leaves. Not the top leaves, as they might have been hiding the eggs of the Orange Tip butterfly. The taste was said to be 'garlic meets cabbage', which is not surprising as it did taste slightly of garlic and the plant is a member of the Brassicaceae family (formerly Cruciferae),



Three-cornered Garlic.

and is being adversely affected by trampling as well as unregulated, and sometimes excessive, foraging in some sites. On the other hand, Three-cornered Garlic is an increasingly serious invasive species, affecting large areas of southern and western Great Britain (see: <https://plantatlas2020.org/atlas/2cd4p9h.ezp>)

Further into the park, Mark was delighted to find a tiny Grey Sedge plant (*Carex divulsa*) at the base of a tree. He explained that Grey Sedge is a survivor



Wild Garlic.

which is the same family as cabbage.

Although these plants are all said to be edible, they should not be picked in Holland Park as foraging is against the by-laws, and wild plants should not be eaten except on the advice of a knowledgeable expert. Also, native Wild Garlic is increasingly uncommon in London

of historic landscape and of value as a ghost of the park's past. It is one of London's more successful native sedges that has survived urbanisation. We later found a larger, healthier Grey Sedge plant in the bed that borders the Lord Holland pond. It had not been planted there, but arrived by itself, as the damp conditions are perfect.

He urged the park's gardeners to make sure the plant thrived and multiplied.

There were many more botanical excitements in the walk. Too many to mention. So, come on the next walk on 17 July and see for yourself. You must book and can do so through Eventbrite.

Jennie Kettlewell



This year we celebrated the 40th art exhibition of The Friends of Holland Park. To mark this milestone, as well as our much-loved exhibition, we also showcased a selection of works celebrating Holland Park. 53 out of the 71 artists sold something, we exceeded our previous sales record and would like to thank all the artists who participated, the Friends that visited the Orangery and those who made a purchase – all combined to make the exhibition a great success. Our volunteers are a vital

component as they check in artists, hang the many paintings and steward throughout the exhibition. We are grateful to idverde who set up the Orangery and provide the wonderful plants. Our sincere thanks also to Ilchester Estates who have continued to support and sponsor the exhibition. The photo collage provides a visual taste of the exhibition, and we will do it all again in Spring 2025.

Gordon French

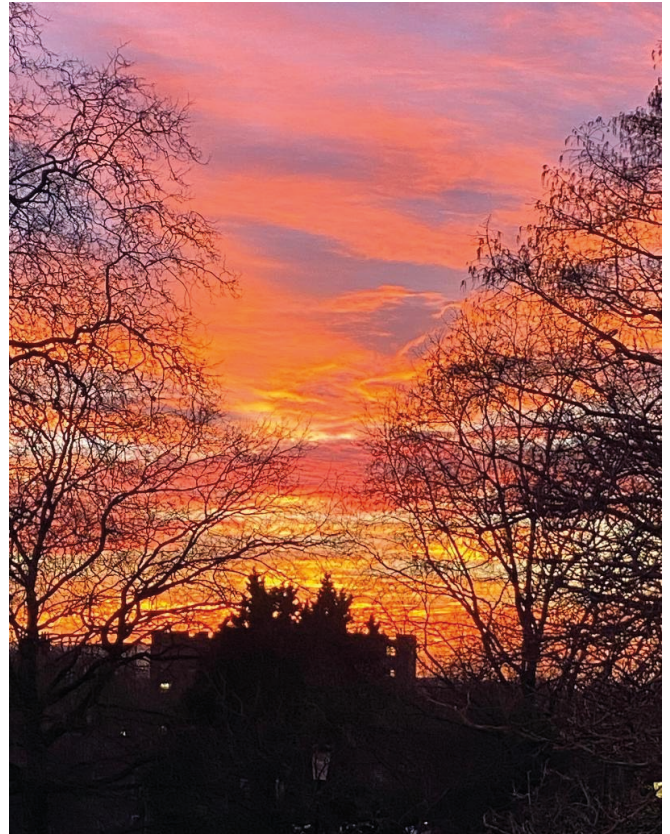
We each have our own favourite places and sights in Holland Park and these are often things that cheer us, relax us, or make life feel special. We are inviting you to send us a photo of what is special to you about Holland Park. It might be a beautiful tree, a flower, a sculpture, a view, butterfly, or some small detail that no-one else has noticed. Take a photo and send it to us and we will present the best and most interesting in future newsletters.

Submission Guidelines

1. Anyone may contribute, members and non-members. Under 16s are welcome to send in photos, provided they state their age and provide the name of a parent or guardian through whom we may correspond.
2. No more than one photo to be submitted per person.
3. Photos should be sent in Jpeg format of at least 3 megabytes.
4. Your photo should have a title of no more than three words. You may add a description, of up to 10 words, that explains why you were inspired by the subject.
5. If there are clearly recognisable people in your photo, you must have their permission if you wish it to be included in The Friends' newsletter.



A winter scene in Holland Park by C Edward Hill.



An example of an inspiring photo taken by Sergeant Helen Tilbury of The Parks Police, taken from her office window.

6. All contributors should give their full name and contact details, including phone and/or email.
7. Photos should be emailed to project organiser, Janet Thacker, on j.thacker09@outlook.com by 31 July 2024.
8. All contributions will be acknowledged.

What will happen to the photos entered?

This is not a competition and we are not looking for a single winner. A panel will assess all entries and select the best for publication in The Friends' newsletter, or newsmails to members. It should be noted that the newsletters are uploaded in full to our website. Photos will be credited to the author on publication, unless otherwise requested. Any photos suitable for the newsletter cover, need to be in portrait format.

Please bear in mind that we regularly get sent photos of squirrels, herons and peacocks, so photos of those subjects would need to be very special if they are to be considered for publication.

We expect to be surprised and delighted with your wonderful photos of Holland Park.

By member Janet Thacker

It's not the first time we've mentioned this in our newsletter, and we have still covered but a fraction of the subject.

The London Plane (*Platanus x hispanica*), is well known to thrive in polluted air and is a very successful London street tree. How does it do that? The papery bark flakes off to expose the younger bark underneath, resulting in a mottled appearance that looks rather like Army camouflage. It is the bark that absorbs the pollution, so when it falls off, it takes the pollutants with it and prevents them getting into the main trunk and congesting the conductive tissue of the tree. Effectively the bark continuously refreshes its outer layers so that the tree can breathe.



Plane tree bark

The architecture of trees is a master class in how to bear the stress of very heavy loads. Just think of those huge branches that grow out sideways and somehow the tree structure manages to bear the weight. Look carefully, and you might see that the tree has grown the equivalent of strong muscles that help it hold up the branch. These 'muscles' develop on one side of the branch so it becomes elliptical rather than circular, enabling the branch to increase its load-bearing capacity. Just think of the force of a gale on a large tree with a dense canopy. Artists usually draw trees in the

wind as blowing the whole canopy in one direction, but Kevin Martin, the Head of Kew's tree collection says it doesn't work like that. A high wind swirls the canopy about, with branches twisting and turning in all directions. Big branches have to be strong enough to do the job of staying upright, but sufficiently flexible to move with the wind without breaking. Architects study trees to see what they can learn and adapt for buildings. Leaves have to cope with the wind so they don't get torn to shreds. Some turn end on to the wind to reduce the impact, while others roll into a cylinder.

As I said: trees are clever.

Jennie Kettlewell



Acacia pravissima in the Rose Garden.

Trees know which way is up. The roots go down and the shoots go up. If you plant an acorn upside down, the plant knows that's wrong and makes a correction. Sometimes an old tree will keel over and, after it's worked out what's happened, the shoots will start growing up towards the sky, at right angles to the trunk. Kew Gardens' Japanese pagoda tree dates back to the 1700s and has collapsed so that the trunk is virtually horizontal, but it has a healthy green canopy growing above it. The secret is that the bits of the plant that 'read' the gravity are in the very tip of the roots. The equivalent at the extreme tip of the shoots can sense the light and send a message to the shoot to grow towards it. Clever! And it was Charles Darwin who performed the experiment to prove it. The photo of the *Acacia pravissima* shows that, in spite of the tree's pronounced lean, the canopy still grows determinedly upward.



Old tree in Kew Gardens showing its 'muscles'.



Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Summer 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>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.
<i>Saturday July 7 and Saturday July 21, 2.00-5.30pm</i>	Member's Garden Opening , Visit this fabulous National Garden Scheme garden designed by Harvey Groffman - 57 St Quintin Avenue, London W10 6NQ. Entry fee with proceeds to the NGS.
<i>Tuesday July 23, 2024</i>	Garden Visit , Private tour of the fantastic Charlotte Molesworth Topiary Garden in Benenden. Leave Notting Hill Gate by coach at 10.00am. Cost £55 for non-members of the Club.

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 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. 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
Wed. 3 July	Pimm's in the Park 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
Wed. 17 July	Wild plants of Holland Park with Dr Mark Spencer. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	6-8pm
Fri. 19 July	Dragonfly walk led by John Wells and Neil Anderson.	ES	11.30am-1.30pm
Fri. 6 Sept.	Blue Badge guided tour. Statues, sculptures & art in the park. Must book. £10.	F	10.30am-12 noon
Wed. 11 Sept.	Autumn Bat Walk led by Philip Briggs. Free to attend, but must book.	ES	7-9pm
Thurs. 19 Sept.	Herbal medicine walk led by Janine Gerhardt. Free to attend but must book.	ES	5-7pm

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.

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**.



The Cover photo of the 'washing basin' in the Kyoto Garden was taken by Jennie Kettlewell.



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