

The Friends of Holland Park
Winter 2024





The Friends of
Holland Park

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OUR ADVERTISERS

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

Sunday, 8 December in the Holland Park Orangery. 7.00pm

Bookings are already coming in, so don't delay and make sure you get your tickets for our very special Christmas Concert.

Once again, we will be entertained by Douglas Somers-Lee and his Ariel Consort of London. Douglas has sung in The Friends' Christmas concert for many years, he knows just what we like and is busy working on an exciting programme for our very special end of year event. There will be many familiar faces in the choir. We can be sure of joyous voices ringing out in the beautiful Orangery, readings to interest and amuse you, and some carols for all to sing.



We think our Christmas Concert is different to the others and of course we think it is better. It seems you do too, as it is always so popular. If you haven't been to this event for a while, or indeed if you are a regular, we can promise you a highly

enjoyable evening. Do book your tickets, now!

After the concert, we will be treated to tasty canapés and a glass or two of wine. Tickets, at £27, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org), or on the order form enclosed with this newsletter.

Please note that this year's concert starts at 7.00pm, earlier than in previous years.

Festive event in Holland Park

On Saturday 30 November The Friends will run a festive pop-up stall in Holland Park's Café Yard. We will be there to catch up with members and other visitors to the park, and will have Christmas cards for sale, as well as tea towels printed with pretty paintings of either wild flowers, or autumn berries. There is a jute shopper with a tree design, and note cards. All of these make lovely Christmas gifts. The Holland Park Café will offer tasty treats with a festive theme, all as part of The Friends' stall.

If their duties allow, two of the Met police horse division will visit us on horseback. There will be carrots available for children to feed to the horses, provided



Met Police and their horses at a previous event in Holland Park

adults check first with the police riders. There will also be Polo mints to feed to the horses, not to the police, who prefer coffee. Did you know horses like Polos?

Russell's has promised a festive fir tree, which will become our 'wishing tree'. Some people are less fortunate and do not have a friend or relative to wish them well over the festive

season. Any visitor to our stall can write a best wishes message on the coloured labels provided and tie it onto the tree. Once it is decorated with best wishes labels, the tree will be donated to a local charity.

Come and say 'hello'. We will be at the stall from 10am to 3.00pm.

We need a volunteer to run events

As you will know, The Friends run many events in the park each year and we are looking for someone to help organize some of these events. If you enjoy working as part of a team, have an eye for detail and would like to volunteer to run events, please get in touch with Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804, or jennie.kettlewell@thefriendsofhollandpark.org

Rare tree

In our autumn issue, we wrote about our rare *Styphnolobium japonicum* 'violacea', saying we had not been accorded Champion Tree status as that title was held by a tree in Cannizaro Park. An interested member of The Friends took the trouble to check and found that the Cannizaro tree is now a dead stump. David Alderman, the Hon Director of the Tree Register of Britain and Ireland, visited our tree and agrees it can now be considered a Champion.



Styphnolobium japonicum violacea flower.

Open-air gym

Refurbishment is well under way, but was temporarily delayed for a very good reason. When it was found that the concrete bases for the equipment would affect the roots of the big London Planes in the area, the layout was re-planned to avoid the problem. The trees were given a helping hand with aeration of the roots and surface mulching. A large beech tree was found to have fungus at its base and is now being checked out by RBKC tree officers. By the time you read this, the gym should be open again. If you haven't tried the equipment yet, do visit the new gym and have a go.



Site poster during works

Fukushima Garden

Following the celebration held to mark the friendship between Motomiya City and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, The Friends were delighted to receive a letter from the Mayor of Motomiya City, Mr Gigyo Takamatsu, thanking us for attending the event. This letter included the words: *'Please allow me to convey my utmost gratitude for your attendance at the Culture Exchange Event in the Fukushima Garden earlier this month. I was*



Signing ceremony in the Town Hall

so very pleased to be able to celebrate our Friendship Declaration with the Friends of Holland Park at the Fukushima Garden – itself, a symbol of our city's bond with the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.' We have thanked the Mayor and said we feel honoured to have received his letter.

A chequered spring

There have been many positive comments about the hard work done by the idverde team as they planted out some tens of thousands of spring bulbs and Forget-me-not plants in the Dutch Garden.

The four beds surrounding the Armillary Sphere look very green, being full of *Festuca glauca* and still more Forget-me-nots. But the design is clever. Look closely and you will see the beds have been divided into chequerboard squares. The bulbs planted in the squares alternate 'black' and white tulips, with 2,000 bulbs in each of the four beds. They will look a fine sight when they bloom in spring and will mirror the chessboard just over the hedge.



Chequerboard design of plants.

Natural Flood Management

We had been given to understand that work would be done in winter 2024 and spring 2025 to reduce uncontrolled water runs in Holland Park during heavy rainfall. As yet we have no update on when this will start and which paths will be closed. We hope to be able to update you around the end of November in an email version of the News Update.

Visitors to the park have been asked not to feed the wildlife. It is not good for the wildlife and not good for the park either. Many people feed squirrels and birds because they think it is kind, but it is not. Thousands of visitors offering food does more harm than good, so we need your help to protect the wonderful wildlife we enjoy in our park.



Food litter in the park is not good for wildlife.

Children, in particular, love to feed squirrels, so this is an opportunity to teach them that these charming little mammals have plenty of natural food to support them. Be kind, and let them stay wild. And remember that squirrels can bite!

The council has a page on its website, explaining the important reasons not to feed the animals, birds, or fish. You can find the information on: www.rbkc.gov.uk/parks-leisure-and-culture, or use this QR Code.



We notice that some park visitors arrive with large bags of peanuts to feed the squirrels. Please remember that some people are allergic to nuts and could suffer a serious reaction if they come into contact with nuts left on the ground in the park.

Many of London's parks have signs saying Don't Feed the Wildlife, so why haven't we? Royal Parks are running a campaign: 'Help us keep wildlife wild' and encouraging all to help nature thrive by appreciating and observing wildlife in its natural habitat rather than seeking an up-close, personal experience. That includes choosing not to feed wildlife, because it causes harm to

them and the environment. An information campaign in Holland Park is long overdue, but still expected, with posters advising people to help nature and not to feed the wildlife.

You may wonder why we have two bird feeders in the park when we are asking for your help with not feeding wildlife. The feeders are managed by the Ecology Service and are targeted at smaller songbirds whilst (hopefully) excluding squirrels. Being situated up in a tree, there is no encouragement for birds to come into direct human contact. The birds visit the feeders just like they would go to feed from berries on a tree.



Bird ringing demonstration



Two fire crests at the bird ringing.

Professional ornithologist, Bill Haines, ran a bird-ringing demonstration in the Wildlife Enclosure on Saturday 5 October. 33 birds of 11 species were captured, almost half being long tailed tits and wrens, but included blackcap, chiffchaff, robin, blue tit, great tit, magpie and song thrush. There were two welcome additions of glorious goldcrests and fire crests. Numbers were slightly down on 2023, but insect and butterfly numbers are down too.

The last time a magpie was captured and ringed in the park was in September 2013 and may only be the second of this species ringed in the park. The last time a firecrest was captured was in 2016 and there have been five ringed or re-trapped since 2011. The only bird that already had a ring was a blue tit that had been ringed as a juvenile at last year's demonstration.

The demonstration involved erecting fine mist nets which do not harm the birds captured in them, and the ringing is carried out under licence. This annual event is organised by the RBKC Ecology Service and sponsored by The Friends of Holland Park.



Main art exhibition showing browsers.

It is the time of year when I announce the dates for The Friends of Holland Park Annual Art Exhibition. Like other Friends who are artists, I find a deadline gives me the necessary creative energy to decide on my subject and start planning. I have already begun sketching particular details in the Kyoto Garden that I will work on over the following months.

You can come and see the end result next April in the Orangery. Artists, this is a call to action. Please register and pay your exhibition registration fee, so I can send you the information/exhibit detail forms.

The conditions of entry remain the same. Friends who are artists, and artists who become Friends, are invited to exhibit up to a total of ten works in the main exhibition. This can be made up of two framed works to hang on the walls, and up to eight unframed works for display in the browser print stands, the latter with a maximum size 70cm x 100cm (including cardboard mounts but no wooden mounts). Or it can be made up of ten three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, stoneware and small sculptures. The minimum sale price for works in the main exhibition is £75. Artists can also enter the Mini-Market of small works on offer at £65 or under, this includes cards and craft items but no paintings. 35% of the money from the sale of your artworks goes to The Friends, so that they can continue the important work they do in Holland Park.

Friends interested in exhibiting in the art exhibition, the Mini-Market, or both, need to register and pay £15 entry fee before they receive the artist exhibits forms. The easiest way to register and pay is on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org. If you do not pay online you must complete the order form enclosed with the newsletter and pay the £15 entry fee.



Gordon French working on his sketches

REGISTRATION OPENS ON FRIDAY 22nd NOVEMBER. Artists who have registered for the main exhibition may include works in the Mini-Market at no additional cost. Please register as soon as possible, as space is limited.



Artists' reception 2024

Information about the exhibition is available on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or from me, Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place London W8 5BJ; email gordon.l.french@gmail.com telephone 020 7937 7222. All the details regarding the 2025 exhibition, feature artist

and sponsorship will be outlined in the spring newsletter.

Artists – you are the exhibition! I look forward to seeing you in The Orangery.

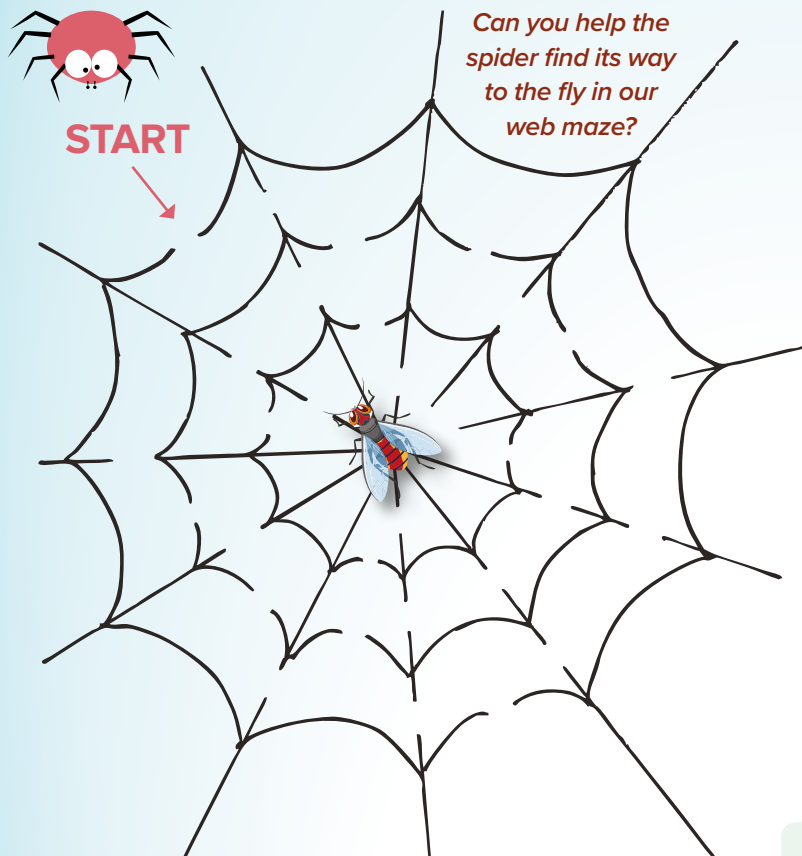
Gordon French

Art Exhibition 2025 Timetable

Friday, 22 November 2024	Artist registration open.
Friday, 7 March, 2025	Final date for completed artist exhibits forms to be received to allow catalogue listing
Friday, 4 April	Artist deliver artworks to the Orangery, Holland Park 8.30-11am <i>Artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct.</i>
Friday, 4 April	Hanging & Judging 11am – 6pm
Friday, 4 April	Artist Reception 6.30pm – 8.30pm
Saturday, 5 April	Exhibition open to the public. 10.30am to 6pm
to Sunday, 13 April	Continues for 9 days from 10.30am to 6pm with entry FREE OF CHARGE.
Sunday, 13 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6.15pm – 7pm
Monday 14 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9am – 11am

Hi there kids!

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



Why spiders make webs and how they do it?

Different types of spiders make different sorts of webs, but the one we see most often is made in a circle, a bit like lace.

The spider produces silk from its body to make the web. The silk is liquid when in its body and becomes a strong and flexible thread when it comes out of openings on the underside of its body. Spiders eat small insects, such as flies, which get caught in the web.

Did you know?



very thick and they covered the ice with hay. Pictured is Holland Park's Ice House. It isn't used for ice now and is used for exhibitions of pictures.

Have you discovered the Ice House?

When Holland House was built in 1607, refrigerators hadn't been invented.

People in Holland House wanted to keep their food and their drinks cold so they built ice houses. During the winter, they collected ice and snow and stored it in the ice house, where it stayed very cold because the walls were



Be a winter bird spotter

Long-tailed tit



Some birds find winter too cold and they travel in flocks to warmer countries. But there are still plenty of birds to see in Holland Park in winter, and it is easier to spot them when there are no leaves on the trees. Look out for Robin, Blue Tits, Long-tailed Tits, Coal Tits, Great Tits, Blackbirds and more.



Robin



Great Tit



Blue Tit



Blackbird

Fun facts

- Spiders are arachnids, not insects.
- Spiders have 8 legs while insects have 6.
- Spiders don't have antennae while insects do.
- Spiders are found on every continent of the world except Antarctica.



Last minute small presents are often a challenge when you visit friends and family over the festive season. So why not have a look at what The Friends have for sale. There are two designs of cotton tea towel; one showing paintings of some of the flowers that grow wild in Holland Park and the other with paintings of autumn fruits in the park. The greetings cards 'Holland House through the trees' make an excellent gift, as does the handy jute shopper decorated with a tree motif.

There is a selection of Holland Park Christmas cards in the Mountbatten catalogue enclosed with this newsletter. This year's card is a view of the 'new' Stable Yard in Holland Park, as it looks today, the old stables having been pulled down in 1812. The card is painted by Terry McKivragan, who painted many of the earlier Holland Park cards. On the front cover of the Mountbatten catalogue you can also see a Christmas card depicting the Holland Park Café with the splendid view of Jacobean Holland House beyond.



Christmas cards with painting of the Stable Yard



Christmas card with painting of the Café

All are available to buy from the Park Reception Office in the Stable Yard, from our website thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or send a cheque with the order form included with this newsletter. Prices of all our cards and merchandise are on the order form with this newsletter.

The local retailers in our Friends & Neighbours discount scheme offer lots of ideas for presents: stylish gifts from The Design Museum shop, presents for the home from Lipp, plants and flowers from Russell's, and picture framing from Gallery 19. The Kensington Health Club and Spa offers beauty treatments as does Threads. Or enjoy some holiday cheer at one of the restaurants and cafés in our scheme. The Holland Park Café has mulled wine and hot

soup to warm you on your visit to the park, all offered with a 15% discount for members of The Friends.

The participants in our programme support us with a special price for our members, and we should support them. A full list of our participating Neighbours, and discounts they offer, is on the Friends' website.

Thank you again for all your support and we hope you will want to continue to help through these troublesome times, when the park is more appreciated than ever, but also has had extra strains put upon it. Your membership gives The Friends clout when negotiating with the Borough on the park's future.

Large charities with offices and paid staff usually have members' subscriptions running for a year from the anniversary of their joining. The Friends' admin is done by volunteers working from home in their own time and on their own machines. There is a limit to what we can ask and therefore, like most similarly-sized charities, our membership year is the calendar year, 1 January to 31 December. This makes it much easier to know who is up to date with their subscriptions. It also saves money and work, by enabling general requests to be made in the newsletters. To compensate those who join after 1 September, they get the rest of that year plus all the following year included. So some of you have already paid for 2025 and a healthy number (about 60%) pay by bank standing order on 1 January.

New members, who have joined since 1 September 2024, or existing members who have renewed since that date, are already covered for 2025.



To the rest of you, i.e. those who last paid before 1 September 2024, now is the time to pay, using the order form enclosed with this newsletter, or on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or by contacting your bank.

If in doubt, check with Graham Franklin 07802 761 548 or ggfranklin3@aol.com. We would like to emphasise that it is less trouble to both you and us if you pay by standing order. If you do not yet do so, the most reliable way is to contact your bank by your usual method, whether that is by telephone, letter, banking app or walk in. (We can supply forms and send them to your bank for you but these are not always fulfilled.) Our bank details are Account No. 60636975 Sort Code 20-47-34 Barclays Bank, Kensington. You will find the amount of your subscription on the enclosed order form.

You will know that your membership discount card, which entitles you to discounts under our Friends & Neighbours scheme, expires on **15 March 2025**. Those who have paid their subscriptions for 2025 will receive a replacement card with their spring newsletter, which will reach them about **1 March**. Please be careful opening your newsletter, as the cards can easily fall out and be lost.

Rhoddy Wood

Fungi Foray

You could walk through the woodlands of Holland Park and might notice a mushroom or two, but go on one of Dr Mark Spencer's Fungi Foray walks and you will find fungi lurking all around you. We have lots of fungi species in the park and Mark introduced us to many of them. One was *Lacrymaria lacrymabunda*, Weeping Widow, its name coming from the black watery droplets that it 'weeps' when moist. There were too many species to describe here, so you must come on Mark's 2025 Fungi Foray. We got into the Halloween spirit when we found Slime Mould, but that's another story as it is apparently not a fungus.

Mark Spencer at the Fungi Foray.



Winter is when Holland Park is reclaimed by its true friends – with or without a capital F. The tourists, sunbathers and picnickers have gone, the opera is over, stumps have been drawn at the cricket nets and artists shun the Ice House when the weather turns icy. The park again becomes the preserve of locals, dog walkers and those taking a short cut to or from the high street.

Fair-weather walkers will stick to the hard paths that stretch from the Design Museum to the D-Garden while the sensibly shod can venture into the woods at the north. The trees that keep these walks cool in summer now provide shelter from cold winds or worse. The low winter sun shines almost horizontally through the trees, theatrically illuminating trunks despite the foliage above, before producing dappled patterns on the paths.

If it is dry the fallen leaves lie crisply on the ground, crackling under foot: after it rains they mulch into a soggy carpet but turn crisp again on frosty days. There may even be a rare covering of snow, but as winter progresses the snowdrops push upwards, followed by crocuses and green shoots that will eventually flower as daffodils.

Meanwhile, Lord Holland, having spent the rest of the year marooned in his pond, now has a private skating rink. But at least he retains his chair: benches are disappearing elsewhere in the woods without replacement. There's no shortage of seating in the Dutch Garden, but the flower beds lack colour in winter: the Forget-me-nots, like the 20,000 tulip bulbs hibernating beneath them, won't bloom until spring.



Jennie Kentlewell

Many park visitors take photos of Grade 1 listed Holland House.

However, the adjacent piazza now comes into its own. The quartet of muddy beds that were Holland House's front garden were replaced before the pandemic by the elegant paved square –only to be covered for half



Simon Grantham

The Nordic Walking group, on a frosty day.

the year by the opera tent. But with the structure now stored away, this terrace and its arches now welcome chess buffs, photographers, badminton players, boxers – and mere walkers. Then descend the ramp for a warming coffee and test whether the cafe's new umbrellas offer as much protection from winter weather as they did from summer sunshine.

What a shame the days are so short at this time of year. But the sundials – whether the Friends' armillary sphere by the Dutch Garden or the D-Garden's tortoises – tend to be timeless in winter.

Richard Northedge



Winter in the woodlands.

Edward Hill

Save me I'm wild

THE STRUCTURE OF WILD FLOWERS

Signed prints & handmade cards

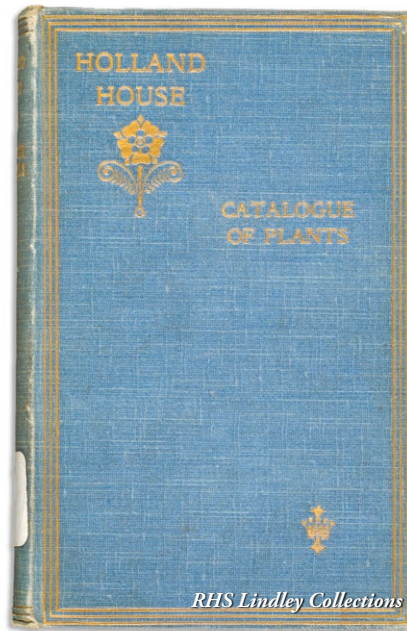


EVERY SATURDAY 10AM - 4PM
Outside 67 Portobello Road

www.savemeimwild.com

Very few trees have been planted in Holland Park over the past 10 years, but that is good in some ways. We have a great many trees in the park (estimated as circa 2000 by our tree officers) and it is important that we don't fill every space, but leave some unshaded grassland for pollinators. Those trees we do plant need to be carefully chosen and planted in spaces where they will thrive. Careful choice involves finding a healthy tree of an appropriate size and a species that will look special.

The owners of Holland House took great pride in its treescapes, right from the start. Sir Walter Cope, for whom Holland House was built, knew John Tradescant (the Elder). In the autumn and winter of 1611, Tradescant went on a plant-buying spree through the Low Countries and France, with the grand sum of £38 to spend on behalf of Cope. From 1750, Henry Fox, the first Baron Holland drew on the advice of close friend and innovative garden-maker Charles Hamilton of Painshill Park and naturalist Peter



Cover of 1901 catalogue.

Collinson, to plan a landscape with both native trees and the sought-after new introductions from North America. They created views, framed to showcase specimen trees. In the winter of 1751 it is recorded that Fox requested cones for *Cupressus sempervirens*, var *horizontalis* and acorns from Scarlet Oak, plus chestnuts from Castanea trees. He also grew cedars, American oak and other exotics. Walks were shaded with elms, limes and hornbeam. And the Dowager Lady Holland planted the Lime Tree Avenue in 1876.

Head gardener, Charles Dixon, published a 1901 catalogue of the trees and plants growing in the grounds of Holland House. This catalogue, in the form of a small book, is held in the Royal Horticultural Society collection of books in its London library and it informs us that there were many uncommon species of trees in the park at that time. 22 different types of willow, 15 of Eucalyptus, 40 pears, 47 Crataegus, 45 oaks, 12 poplars, 6 beech, 16 ash, 8 limes, 8 birch and 11 types of Robina.

Sadly, we don't have the range of trees that existed in those days and we have lost a great many uncommon trees in the past ten years, but we are doing our best to add some very special species, as and when they can be found. Those of you who visit the park will see that the Southern Nettle and Kentucky Coffee trees, planted along the top of the sports field, are growing straight and true. We were a little worried about the unnaturally mottled leaves on the Southern Nettle earlier this year, but the trees have been treated and we will keep an eye on them.

How trees are planted is very important, but so is tree management once they are in the ground and growing. Our knowledgeable Council tree officers inspect our Holland Park trees on a rolling three-year schedule and carry out any work necessary for safety or for the health of the tree. London Planes are inspected annually for Massaria disease, with dead or infected branches removed as a result. You may have noticed the drama of a huge Horse Chestnut behind the Café being felled recently, and the dead Tree of Heaven will shortly be removed from the Holland House south terrace.



Diseased Horse chestnut that had to be felled.

The Friends pay for Bartletts to carry out proactive tree health work each year, with the aim of preventing a tree getting to the stage when it needs to be cut down or big branches sawn off. The Horse Chestnuts in the car park have just undergone their remedial soil drench and we are delighted that Kaveh from the *idverde* team has regularly cleared the infected leaves that fall to the ground. The trees in Chestnut Avenue have had their trunks sprayed to encourage them to activate their own defences.

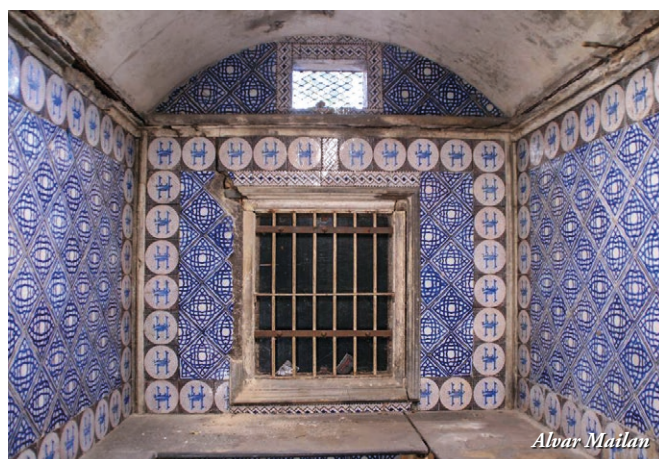
Trees benefit all of us by helping fight climate change, save wildlife and improve our health. We can enjoy the trees in our park now, but we need to make sure that our children and grandchildren can also enjoy them.

Jennie Kettlewell



idverde's Sheku weeding around the Southern Nettle and Kentucky Coffee trees.

Food produced from the Holland House estate



The old dairy.

Two groups of visitors to the park enjoyed a talk about how the grounds of Holland House provided food for the grand dinner parties, given almost daily in the early 1800s. Lady Elizabeth Holland became famous as a hostess, entertaining the rich and famous, royalty as well as writers and artists. She and her husband, the 3rd Baron Holland, entertained up to 50 guests a day, with dinners followed by parties and dancing. The estate produced much of the food. What wasn't used in the big house was sold, and we know the prices of what was bought and sold from a ledger held in the RBKC Local Studies department.

The old Ice House, where ice was stored for ice cream, sorbets and ice cream deserts, still exists, though is now used as an art gallery. The Old Dairy is currently being conserved. That beautiful little room is where

milk from the estate's cows would have been turned into butter and cream.

One of the visiting groups for this talk was from the Pepper Pot Centre and the other from Open Age. Both have asked to visit Holland Park again and to hear more. You too will also be able to hear more, as management of the old estate will be a new subject for our Blue Badge tours in 2025. There will also be repeats of the popular tour on the history of Holland House and the people who lived there. These will be in the first half of March, so that we can visit the House close-up before Opera Holland Park take over the terrace for their season. Keep an eye on The Friends' notice boards in the park, and on our website, for dates of tours.

Jennie Kettlewell



The Open Age Group being addressed by Blue Badge guide, Leila Sukiur

Winter 2024

Kensington Gardeners' Club

The club provides a programme of talks at St George's Church, Aubrey Walk, as well as garden visits. See the website for updates www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk. To book, email susan.vannoorden@ntlworld.com.

Sat. 18 January, 2.30pm. **Talk by Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** on "The Lost Gardens of London".

Sat. 22 February, 2.30pm. **Talk by Timothy Walker** on the "Plants of Tenerife".

The Kensington Society

A programme of lectures, talks, walks and visits is being planned for 2025 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.

Strange Objects!

It is not unusual to be handed a strange-looking piece of ceramic or stone that has been found in the park. People have a displaced sense of belief that The Friends are expert archaeologists, but we are not, or at least your chairman is not. Here are some recent finds.

idverde's John Becker has an interest in art, architecture, archaeology and handed in this small piece of what he thought was knapped flint. Knapping is the process of splitting a piece of flint by percussion and shaping it for a purpose. In ancient times, these were used for tools, but you can usually see the



Knapped flint found by John Becker



Glazed stone found by Alvar Mailan

marks where the flakes of flint have been chipped off. This flint is quite smooth, except perhaps for round the edges, so what is it?

When Alvar Mailan was conserving the damaged terra cotta bricks on the wall to the west of Holland House, he found a bit of what looks like glazed stone and thought it might be of interest.

If any of you know a bit about this subject, do please get in touch and you might be able to help us learn what these items are.

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

Sat. 30 Nov. **Festive event in Holland Park's Café Yard.** Friends' stall, selling Christmas cards, greetings cards, pretty Holland Park tea towels and more. Christmas produce from the Café on sale. Festive 'wishing tree'. Met police may arrive with their horses so children can feed carrots to the horses. Spotter/quiz activity for children. F 10am-3pm

Sun. 8 Dec. **Christmas Concert** performed in The Holland Park Orangery by the Ariel Consort of London. £27. (See p3 in this newsletter for details and how to book tickets.) F 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.

A big thank you!

You will know from reading our newsletters, just how much our funding of projects in Holland Park has helped to enhance and improve the natural and historic assets we all enjoy. It is so important that these wonderful community benefits continue to be looked after and that we make sure our funds continue to be used appropriately.

We are most grateful to all of you who have already made donations to The Friends, whether it is £1 from rounding up a subscription, or a larger sum donated because you love the park. We hope that this newsletter will encourage others of you to support our

important work, and you can do so on our website where you can find a donations button.

Some generous members have left a legacy in their will, the most recent being Kathleen Hall, who died in early 2023, when she was only a month short of her 100th birthday. Many of you will remember her as a much-valued trustee and contributor to our newsletter. We had not known she planned a legacy for The Friends and are most grateful for the £10,000 she has left for us.

A very big 'thank you' to all of you for your support.

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 Ice House was taken by Jennie Kettlewell in December 2022.



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