



*The Friends of Holland Park
Spring 2019*

Membership card enclosed
if you have paid for 2019

JOHN WILCOX & Co.

ESTATE AGENTS AND VALUERS



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Moss Walk Led by John Wells



Saturday, 13 April 2019, 11am-1pm. Meet in the Stable Yard

This year the Moss walk will be led by John Wells whom some of you might remember from a previous visit. John is an all round naturalist and an engaging teacher who says his greatest satisfaction comes from showing people what they would not otherwise have seen or understood.



Moss in the park

There is no charge, but places are strictly limited so that everyone can get a clear view of the beauty and intricacies of these natural wonders. To book please contact Rhoddy Wood on rhoddy.wood@virgin.net or 020 7602 0304. It is important to bring a hand lens of at least x 10 magnification.

Pimm's in the Park

Wednesday, 10 July 2019, 6-8pm, in the marquee east of the Dutch Garden

We are most grateful to Michael Volpe, General Director of Opera Holland Park, for allowing us once again to use the marquee on the raised terrace to the east of the Dutch Garden for our annual Pimm's party. Come rain or shine, we will be protected from anything the weather will throw at us, and enjoy a lovely view of the formal garden as well.

This is the one event of our year that is only open to Friends and their immediate guests, but not to the general public. Pimm's, soft drinks and canapés will be served. Tickets, at £18 each, can be booked on the enclosed order form or via our website.

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 10 April 2019 at 7.30pm in the Orangery

Be sure to put 10 April in your diary and come along to our AGM. The formal part is usually over quickly and we have time to talk about what has been achieved over the past year and what needs to be done in 2019. The May 2018 local elections gave us three new Holland Ward councillors, each of whom has shown great interest in the park and its issues; and there are still issues, as there will be with any park. Top of the list is the very poor state of Holland House (see the article on page 11). The overall number of trees continues to decline, and erosion is showing up in the form of large bare patches of muddy earth. It is not all bad news. The state of the formal beds has greatly improved under *id verde's* care, stage 3 of the tree health programme was implemented by Bartletts, and the major landscaping work on the Holland House terrace and café yard was completed and is a considerable improvement. Do join us at the AGM, hear our views on the tough challenges, and add your own views. We welcome your support and your input.



JEROBOAMS

LONDON'S LOCAL WINE MERCHANT



Pop in and see Kathy and the team at
96 Holland Park Ave, London,
or call on 020 7727 9359
Jeroboams.co.uk



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The tiles on the walkways

In 2004 The Friends made a significant contribution towards conservation of the Florentine tiles on the wall under the café arches and above, beside the higher walkway. The work has lasted well, but further conservation is needed, as these fine tiles are exposed to the elements. With Council permission the Friends have obtained estimates from experts with appropriate skills, and the Council has approved the choice of a company that carried out a detailed assessment of the condition of the tiles. We can only hope that progress with this work is not held up due to the greater conservation programme, which we were firmly told did not include the tiles. These two walkways, upper for fine weather and lower for rainy days, were created to link Holland House with the summer ballroom, on the orders of the 4th Lord Holland. The tiles were added between 1851 and 1858.



Tiled walkway

This is precision work and it needs to be measured up, fitted and burnished to match the original piece. This will be funded by The Friends.

Bees get their meadow

The beehives on top of the Stable Yard building roof are being relocated to Arboretum 1, behind the North Lawn, and east of Acer Walk. These hives and their occupants will continue to be managed by The London Beekeepers Association (LBKA), a voluntary organisation. LBKA will work with the Borough's Ecology Service to create and manage a pollinator meadow in Arboretum 1, stocked with appropriate wild flowers. In the short term the grass will be regularly cropped to reduce nutrients, so that the flowers take hold and the grass is weakened with a scattering of Yellow Rattle in the autumn, to assist with wild-flower meadow establishment. There will be one paving stone for each hive, but no additional infrastructure. To compensate for the cropped meadow, Arboretum 2, to the immediate west of Acer Walk, will undergo more sensitive management in 2019 for the pollinators to enjoy.

© Justin Thomas

Armillary sphere



Jennie Kettlewell

Armillary sphere

One of the *id verde* team noticed that the central rod (gnomon) was missing from the armillary sphere in the Dutch Garden. Without it, the device cannot show shadow and therefore time. The Friends obtained a quote from specialist Richard Rogers Conservation, who have been commissioned to manufacture a new gnomon.

George Law

We are very sad to announce that one of our great supporters, George Law, died on Christmas Day after a long illness. Having recovered enough to attend our autumn talk, we were hoping that he would also be able to come to our Christmas carol concert, which he always looked forward to so much. But it was not to be.

He and his wife Anne joined The Friends in 1997 and regularly attended our functions and the AGM. George's experience in planning meant that he was able to advise us on many occasions, which was much appreciated. You will recall that George often did write-ups for our various

concerts, always with interesting information that he had researched. He was a great lover of classical music, and supported and followed the careers of young singers and musicians. He was a friend of Jonathan Dove who composed *Flight*, a thrilling opera performed by Opera Holland Park in 2015.

We will miss George's helpfulness and enthusiasm in all things Holland Park, and we offer our sincere condolences to his wife, Anne.

Joy Puritz



Last year's Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition was a record-breaking exhibition for both visitor numbers and sales, and I am very much aiming for a repeat of that this year.

I am delighted to let you know that as last year, Ilchester Estates is our official sponsor. It is their financial contribution that will help us promote the exhibition to a wider audience. This year I am hoping to feature a watercolour of Holland Park by Lady Ilchester in our exhibition. Her great passion was the garden of Holland House, and this painting is the result of that passion. This might not come about, but I am trying my best. Also, I am pleased to announce that this year's Feature Artist will be Ihor Ropyanyk. Ihor was born in 1957 in the city of Ivano-Frankivsk (formerly Stanislav) in the Ukraine. He was a journalist before learning to paint. Specialising in landscape and still life over the last 30 years, he has painted over 3,000 canvases. Ihor first came to my attention when he exhibited in the Ice House.

I liked his work immediately, and this artist is a Friend of Holland Park, exhibits annually in the Ice House and the Orangery, paints Holland Park beautifully, yet lives in the Ukraine. Our exhibition and our park are attracting people a long way away from The Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in West London; and I think that is fantastic.

Could all artists please ensure that their exhibition details forms are with me by Friday, 15 March. Also, remember to indicate which Private View you would like to attend: Friday night or Saturday morning, otherwise you will not receive tickets. We hope you will support The Friends of Holland Park by visiting our exhibition during the nine days in the Orangery, and telling your family, friends and neighbours to come along.

*Gordon French
Exhibition organiser and artist*

Art Exhibition Timetable

Friday, 15 March	All artist exhibit details forms must be received by this date to allow listing in the catalogue
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
Friday, 5 April	Private View, 7.30-9.30pm
Saturday, 6 April	Private View, 10.30am-12.30pm <i>(on application, artists are entitled to 4 complimentary tickets plus 1 artist's ticket)</i>
Saturday, 6 April	Exhibition opens to the public, 1-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 7 - Sunday, 14 April	Exhibition open to the public, 10.30 am-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 14 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6-7pm
Monday, 15 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9-11am Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6pm on SUNDAY, 14 April

Change to Friends' Nature Walks

Since expert Ian Thompson led the Friends' bird walks some years ago we have not been able to find a professional leader to commit to a once-a-month walk. This event has become a more general nature/park update on the first Saturday of each month, but the numbers attending have dwindled, and we have decided to do things differently. The final 9am Saturday Nature Walk was on 2nd March. The Ecology Service run a full programme of excellent nature walks and talks, many of which are sponsored by The Friends, so that they can be free to those who attend. We want to put our effort into encouraging members to attend these. See a full list with instructions for booking on www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology. Events specifically for those interested in birds are:

Sat 23 March: Beginners' guide to bird-watching led by David Darrell-Lambert. Booking essential.

Sat 27 April: Dawn chorus bird walk led by David Darrell-Lambert. Booking essential.

Sat 12 October: Bird ringing demonstration by Bill Haines. Drop in, no need to book.

Sat 9 November: Friends' bird walk, led by Bill Haines. No need to book.

There are more species of birds in Holland Park than most people imagine. Do come and enjoy them.

The Friends are looking into the possibility of adding other walks during the year, on the history and art in Holland Park, and perhaps more general nature walks. These would be later in the day rather than starting at 9am.

Last April our annual spring recital, taking place during our art exhibition in the Orangery, was performed by the flute and harp duo, Heavenly Duets: respectively Anne Allen and Zita Silva, who replaced the indisposed harpist Cecily Beer at a few hours' notice. This year Anne Allen is performing in her other duo, The Ancora Duo, with guitarist Sarah Freestone. The programme will include Scheidler's *Sonata in D for Flute and Guitar*, arrangements of pieces by Bach, Fauré, Massenet, a tango by Piazzolla, and the boisterous *Entr'acte* by Ibert, which had to be cut last year because of the change of harpist. We will also hear *Sicilienne* by Maria Theresia Paradis who, despite losing her sight at the age of five years, was a gifted Austrian musician and composer for whom Mozart is thought to have written his 18th piano concerto.



Anne Allen (flute), Sarah Freestone (guitar)

As a soloist, Anne Allen has performed in major concert halls in Europe, the Far East, Africa, Russia, South America and Australia; she has performed on radio and TV and has won many prizes; she is also involved in musical therapy. Sarah Freestone is a multi-instrumentalist, teacher, composer, arranger, conductor, community musician and member of the BBC Concert Orchestra. She began her career aged 7 playing and singing in folk clubs. She has won many prizes including the Julian Bream Prize. She was musical director of the ballet *Winter Dreams* at the Royal Opera House, and conducted the BBC concert Orchestra in the première of her *WWI Requiem*. Tickets at £18, to include wine and canapés, can be ordered on the enclosed order form or via our website.

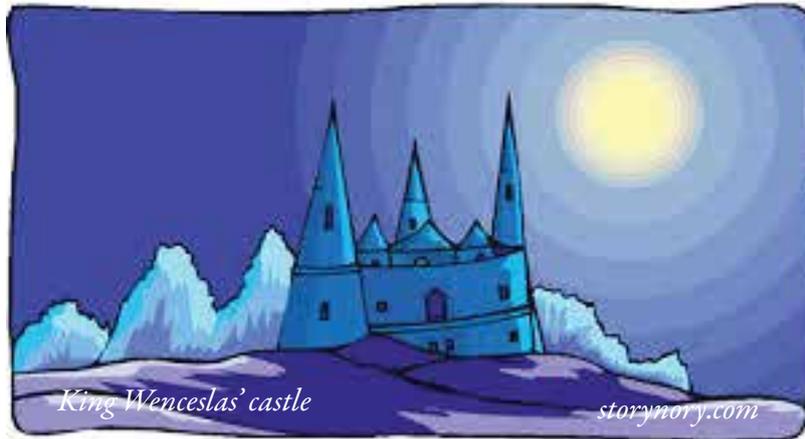
Membership Cards and Subscriptions

Those of you who use your membership cards to receive discounts when shopping with some of our Friends & Neighbours, might have noticed that the end of February is when your card expires. A new one is enclosed with this newsletter if our records show you as having paid your subscription for 2019. Your order form will be white. All subscriptions were due on 1 January except for those who joined after 1 September 2018. If we think you have not yet paid, there will be no membership card and your order form will be green with a standing order form on the back. Over 600 of our members use standing orders, as it means they never have to remember again, and it helps our treasurer too. Or you can post a cheque, payable to The Friends of Holland Park, to Rhoddy Wood. Alternatively, you might prefer to pay by going on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, and pay with your credit/debit card or PayPal.

This avoids the hassle and expense of finding an envelope, cheque and stamp, but cannot be combined with a standing order. You can however, click on a very obvious yellow button if you want to add a further donation, as some of our members do. Current minimum rates are £12 or £9 for the over 65s, with joint subscriptions available for two people at the same address for £20, or £15 where both are over 65. You will agree these are very moderate sums, but we keep them low to enable all to join. Our records are not infallible, so do contact Rhoddy on 020 7602 0304 or rhoddy.wood@virgin.net if you have a query. However you pay, we are most grateful for your support as it gives us clout in all our dealings with the Borough and other bodies.

We seem to say it every year, that the Christmas concert was better than ever; well, the one we enjoyed on the evening of 9th December seemed to surpass, yet again, all previous performances for us by The Tallis Chamber Choir and their conductor, Philip Simms. The Orangery (beautifully warmed thanks to our ultra efficient events organiser, Graham Franklin), was gloriously ringing with the vibrant sound of 18 singers and their accompanist Michael Paine. Janice Miles's first class canapés were to die for, and her mouth-watering stollen and mince pies gave us a foretaste of Christmas.

The first carol, *Ave Maria*: settings of portions of the *Angelus* as well as the *Ave Maria*, and composed by the German composer Franz Biebl in 1959, began with a beautiful monastic chant by the men. As other voices joined, we heard delicious crunching harmonies interspersed with more chants. In the first half we also enjoyed a lively syncopated *Nova! Nova!* by Bob Chilcott, and the joyful *Frolocket, ihr Völker auf Erden* by Mendelssohn interspersed with gentler carols such as *The Wexford Carol* and a Basque lullaby.



As usual there were several readings, and carols sung with the audience joining in; and the second half consisted of the poet laureate, Carol Ann Duffy's poem, *Wenceslas*, that describes a bizarre feast, the main dish of which is a Christmas pie of many kinds of poultry stuffed within each other in a list as long as

a bird guide. This narration was interrupted eight times by cleverly chosen carols, including one composed by Henry VIII, accompanied by a drum and a tambourine. This group of carols culminated in a brilliant arrangement, by the conductor, of the traditional *Twelve Days of Christmas*, full of lovely variations and thrilling key changes.

The encore was by Josef Rheinberger, who spent most of his life in Germany but was born in Liechtenstein and, at the age of seven, already served as organist in the parish church of Vaduz. The tranquil *Abendlied* is a verse from the biblical narration of the road to Emmaus: 'Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.' It is Rheinberger's best known sacred composition, the first version of which he composed at the age of 15. After the tranquil opening carol, this was a very fitting rounding off to the concert.

Joy Puritz

Lycetts Insurance Brokers Donates to Friends

Our 10%-discount arrangement with Lycetts Insurance Brokers has now been in place for a year, and it has worked for both them and for our members.

Lycetts is different from most insurance brokers in that it is owned by a charity (Allchurches Trust), and all their available profits are invested in the community. True to their ethos, we were delighted to receive their donation of £250, recognising household policies agreed with our members in 2018.

Jonathan Lloyd, head of Lycetts London office, not only knows Holland Park but was born in a house almost next to it. That link means our members can expect a truly personal service from the outset, which includes providing expert assistance and skilled negotiation with insurers in the event of a claim. Jonathan can be contacted on 020 7398 1660 or jonathan.lloyd@lycetts.co.uk.

New offer: Design Museum Kitchen

The 'Design Museum Kitchen' restaurant has opened under the management of Searcys, and it looks tempting for those of our members who enjoy reasonably priced but interesting food, all with stunning views of both the iconic parabolic roof and of Holland Park. Friends are offered a discount for lunch from 12 noon to 6pm on weekdays and for weekend brunch and lunch from 11am to 6pm. Whether you are visiting an exhibition in the museum or just hungry and in the locality, go up to Level 2 of the museum to enjoy the seasonal menu in a relaxed atmosphere. Searcys' experience and reputation will ensure that ingredients are of the best quality and are mainly UK sourced. The Friends welcome this new restaurant and are

delighted that it is now part of our 'Friends & Neighbours' programme.

Offer: 10% discount on meals and beverages in the Design Museum Kitchen restaurant, when no other promotional offer applies. Although the offer excludes group bookings of more than 20 people, the management will be pleased to discuss any enquiries. 224-238 Kensington High Street, London W8 6AG. Book online at designmuseum.org/plan-your-visit/food-drink-by-searcys

**The Friends of Holland Park**

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2018

	2018		2017	
	£		£	
Income from:				
Donations & legacies:				
Donations	38,418		29,063	
Legacies	-	38,418	-	29,063
Charitable activities:				
Subscriptions		13,011		12,788
Other trading income:				
Events	19,674		19,315	
Sale of merchandise	2,227		2,561	
Advertising	4,119	26,019	1,422	23,298
Interest		137		47
Total incoming resources		<u>77,585</u>		<u>65,196</u>
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Fundraising	1,307		2,100	
Event expenses	14,493		15,089	
Cost of merchandise	1,315	17,115	1,516	18,705
Charitable activities:				
Newsletter	6,172		10,858	
Grants & aims expenditure	20,379		23,895	
Governance	346	26,898	413	35,166
Total resources expended		<u>44,012</u>		<u>53,871</u>
Net income/(expenditure)		33,573		11,325
Total funds brought forward		97,795		86,470
Total funds carried forward		<u><u>131,368</u></u>		<u><u>97,795</u></u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

	£		£	
Current assets:				
Debtors & prepayments	237		201	
Deposit & current accounts	132,017	132,254	97,912	98,113
Creditors:				
Amounts falling due within one year		886		318
Net assets		<u><u>131,368</u></u>		<u><u>97,795</u></u>

When I walked through the gates of Holland Park the first time, I noticed the sign 'Dog toilet' I stopped and smiled...a very good idea...none of the other parks have it in central London. As an Artist I was treated for severe depression – illness of the soul – Therefore the outdoors became vital part of my healing process. Holland Park offered me a unique quality with its tranquil oasis of natural beauty.



Peacock in the park

The peacocks squirrels the fish pond, robin the parakeets became my family I talk to and take photos of. I tell them how beautiful they are. They brought smile back to my face and joy into my heart! There is power in nature...that helped me back to life. Thank you for looking after it in a most beautiful and effective way.

Ibolya Balint



Iris in the Iris Garden

Ibolya visited Holland Park two or three times a week for over two years. We give you her piece above unedited, and some photos she has taken.



Wisteria at the entrance to the Dutch Garden

Notes on the Accounts for 2018

Donations again showed a healthy increase, due both to individuals who left significant sums, and to many of you who rounded up subscriptions and other purchases. We are grateful to all of you. RBKC's City Living, Local Life fund donated the cost of designing the children's page in our newsletter.

The increase in advertising revenue is a quirk of timing. We changed the process for producing the quarterly newsletter to deliver much improved value for money. Grants to the park, at £20,379, were lower than expected due to a couple of council projects being postponed until 2019.

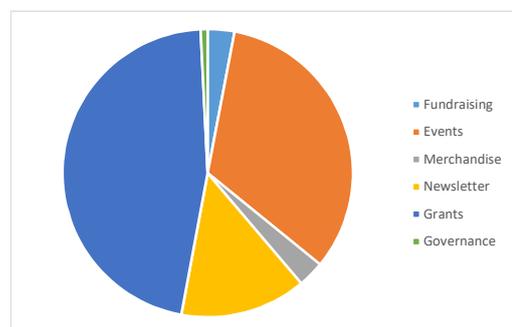
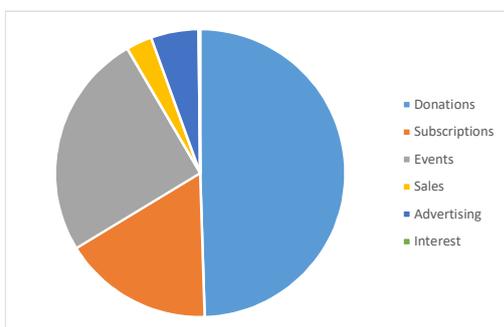
Statement of Accounts (*contd*)

Income from:

Donations	38,418
Subscriptions	13,011
Events	19,674
Sales	2,227
Advertising	4,119
Interest	137

Expenditure on:

Fundraising	1,307
Events	14,493
Merchandise	1,315
Newsletter	6,172
Grants	20,379
Governance	346



Hi there **kids!**

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

BE A TERRIFIC TRACKER!



You often see squirrels, parakeets, pigeons and peacocks in Holland Park and, if you are in the woods early and stay very quiet, you might see a fox.

Each type of creature has a different shape of foot, designed to help them live their lives. Some, like ducks, need to swim, others need to climb trees.

Have a go at matching these footprints to the animals below...**dog, crow, fox, frog, pigeon, squirrel, and woodpecker.** Write your answers in the white circles next to the photos.

1. Dog footprint (two large pads, four smaller ones)

2. Crow footprint (three long, thin toes)

3. Fox footprint (two large pads, four smaller ones)

4. Frog footprint (four long, thin toes)

5. Pigeon footprint (three long, thin toes)

6. Squirrel footprint (two large pads, four smaller ones)

7. Woodpecker footprint (two long, thin toes)

Answers: Dog = 2, crow = 6, fox = 1, frog = 5, pigeon = 3, squirrel = 4, woodpecker = 7.

Omar Owl says: "Did you know?"

Lord Holland was a rich man who owned Holland House and the whole of Holland Park over 200 years ago.

The park was much, much bigger in those days. He and his wife Elizabeth gave lots of big parties and spent so much money that they had to sell some bits of the park.

Have a look at the statue of Lord Holland north of Holland House. The writing says he died in MDCCCXL which is the Roman number for 1840, nearly two centuries years ago.



Why are the buds on chestnut trees sticky?



In the spring, the horse chestnut trees have big sticky buds. The sticky stuff is made by the tree itself and, if you touch the buds you end up with very sticky fingers!

But why do they need to be sticky? Insects that like to nibble on the buds to get to the tender leaves inside, don't like the gooey substance at all as they can get stuck and can't escape. The trees don't want to be eaten by insects so they make their buds sticky and the insects don't bother.

Bees don't nibble the buds but do like the gooey covering. They take it back to their hives to gum up draughty gaps.



I'm a Londoner, born and bred, but my forebears came from the country: Oxfordshire to be precise. They had lived there for centuries. Life was good, and there was always plenty of food: rabbits galore. They only had to wait by a rabbit warren and before long a ready meal would pop out. In the spring there were new-born lambs, which made for a change of diet. Now I believe they are kept in sheds, poor little things. There was a disadvantage, of course: mostly in the winter and early spring, packs of dogs came to hunt my forebears down, followed by men on horseback wearing red coats. Ridiculous!

Then, in the 1950s, rabbits were attacked by a horrible disease and died off in their thousands. So, what with one thing and another, my ancestors decided to leave, and headed for London. Some followed the railway line into town and others, like my forebears, followed the old coach road where, just before the site of the old toll gate at Notting Hill, they found the ideal home in Holland Park. There was a nice, secluded wood with a private pool surrounded by a fence, a beautiful garden and even a sports field for the cubs. They did see dogs occasionally, but they were generally well behaved



Urban Fox Feasting

we had some especially wholesome meals for a few days. We now go into the surrounding streets twice a week when people put out plastic bags full of delicious food. You can easily tear them open. The pigeons are grateful too.

Of course there's always a disadvantage wherever you live: in the summer, hoards of people arrive in the evening, some carrying baskets of food, in order to listen to a horrible screeching which comes from the terrace of a ruined house. You just can't get to sleep. The peacocks that roost nearby have complained, but to no avail, so they just screech back.

A family I know decided to downsize and found a nice little place underneath a garden shed. The family dog wasn't too friendly, but they just keep out of his way. Anyway, I don't propose to move. I'm quite happy where I am, here in Holland Park.

(as told to) Kathleen Hall

Hope for 'At Risk' Holland House

It is both sad and shameful that Historic England find Holland House is in such a poor state of repair that they have put it on their At Risk Register from this January. It is now mandatory for RBKC to fulfil its duty to look after the Grade-1-listed asset they own, and they must appoint a conservation architect to plan and oversee the work. The Friends see it as good news that the house will at last be conserved.

It is obvious to the naked eye that brick and stonework are damaged, the loose finials have been removed and stored, though we understand they have not been numbered as one would expect.



Stonework damage, Holland House

The East Wing window frames are in bad order, showing signs of advanced decay. Blocked gutters and pigeon droppings have accelerated the damage.

The Council carried out a condition survey in 2018, but no planning/ listed-building consent was applied for, although The Friends were told work was to commence in September 2018. It is unclear what work was entailed.

This grand old building is the reason the park exists, and one of the finest examples of Jacobean architecture in the UK. We look forward to hearing from the Council about progress on conservation plans. This is an opportunity.

Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell

Many of the *id verde* team are well known to members as we see them planting, pruning, weeding and pondering on what an area should look like in the next season. The maintenance team is now separate from the gardening team, and we see them too, sweeping the paths, emptying the bins and generally keeping the park in trim once we messy visitors have left. Both the gardening and the maintenance teams report to the new head gardener.



Jennie Kettlewell

id verde gardeners at work

New head gardener gets stuck in

Owen Rogers has worked with *id verde* for the past four years and has recently taken on the role of Holland Park's head gardener. In the short time he has been in that role, he has used his considerable knowledge and experience to make a

notable improvement. Beds have been cleared out, plants cut back, and we can now see what each space is meant to be. The team is working with renewed energy. Owen also knows how to design planting, and one of his first projects will be re-thinking the Iris Garden, which had become weedy and was not all that interesting when the irises were not in flower. Be prepared for a show. He has excellent ideas about other parts of the park too.

In 2016 *id verde* acquired Quadron who were, at that time, the company contracted to maintain the grounds of Holland Park, bringing new resources and opportunities that benefit both the park and the team.



id verde

Joe Boulton with his dump truck

The Adventure Playground

id verde celebrates its centenary this year. Originally a forestry business, the company had to re-invent itself over the years, diversifying its offering and adapting through times of war and austerity. The company has continued to develop both organically and through acquisition, with landscaping accounting for 20% of its turnover, and grounds maintenance for 80%.

The Friends were delighted when *id verde* won the contract to implement the plan for Holland Park's Adventure Playground redevelopment, because we felt the work would be done by people who already knew

and cared for the park. All businesses claim that they listen to the community, but only a few actually do so. *id verde* are demonstrating their community link on the playground project by working with a number of initiatives, involving local schools in planting and play-taster sessions to introduce children to the new facilities. You might wonder why children need an introduction, but the new playground will be very different to

the old one and an entirely new play experience. The company will also run 'Meet the Contractor' days for the community. The new play facility is bespoke for its woodland setting and will be robust enough to withstand the onslaught of little hands and feet.

When Alistair Bayford, *id verde*'s Operations Director, was asked what challenges they faced with the playground he said: 'The compact nature of the site, the need to protect and work around the many valued trees, and the narrow site access are certainly challenging.' Alistair also explained the complexities of the perched water table where groundwater gets trapped on top of an impermeable layer: in this case, London clay. The old playground always flooded, but now the SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage System) work will channel water and create underground storage.

Staff development and career opportunities

Encouraging staff to develop their skills and progress their careers is part of the *id verde* ethos with learning on site, and through the *id verde* Performance

Campus. Holland Park has benefitted from apprentices who have gained qualifications and experience and graduated to full gardener status. Joe Boulton, whom many of you will know, joined *id verde* as an apprentice four years ago, progressed steadily and took the opportunity to join the landscaping team last year. He is now driving the 'big toys' on the Adventure Playground project and certainly looks to be enjoying it.

id verde's teams probably know already, because people stop to tell them, that the work they do to keep our park special is very much appreciated. They should be proud of their work.

Jennie Kettlewell

<p>Kensington Gardeners' Club (information from www.kensingtongardeners.co.uk or please contact 07949 769702). Talks and club meetings take place in the basement lecture theatre at Kensington Central Library, Phillimore Walk. Free to members. Guests pay £5.</p>	
<p>9 March 2.30pm</p>	<p>Stephen Anderton will talk on 'The magic of Plants'.</p>
<p>6 April</p>	<p>Spring walk in Kew Gardens, led by Pat Smallcome. Check website for meeting point and other details.</p>
<p>27 April</p>	<p>Day visit to Exbury Garden, Hants. Check website for details.</p>
<p>19 May 2-6pm</p>	<p>Members' garden opening – National Garden Scheme. Arundel and Ladbroke Gardens W11.</p>
<p>23 May</p>	<p>Visit to The Holme, Regent's Park. Check website for meeting point and other details.</p>
<p>Opera Holland Park (all information, including about the talks and insights programme, from www.operahollandpark.com Tickets available from 0300 999 1000)</p>	
<p>4,7,11,13,15,18, 20,22 June at 7.30pm</p>	<p>Manon Lescaut by Puccini</p>
<p>8,10,12,14,19, 21,25,27,28*,29 June at 7.30pm 16 June, <i>matinée</i> at 2pm *Young Artists Performance</p>	<p>Un ballo in maschera by Verdi</p>
<p>4,5,6 July at 7pm 6 July, <i>matinée</i> at 2pm</p>	<p>Royal Ballet School</p>
<p>9 June at 8pm</p>	<p>Dido and Aeneas by Purcell, with Juilliard145 and singers of the Juilliard's Marcus Institute for Vocal Arts</p>
<p>20,25,27,31 July, 2 August At 7.30pm</p>	<p>L'arlesiana by Cilea</p>
<p>22,24,26,30 July 1,3 August at 7.30pm</p>	<p>Il segreto di Susanna, by Wolf-Ferrari/Iolanta by Tschaikevsky (double bill)</p>
<p>The Kensington Society (all information and on-line booking on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events)</p>	<p>For details of 2019 events, please check the Kensington Society website.</p>
<p>RBKC Active for Life A varied programme of physical activities in Kensington from gentle walks to sport. Full details on www.rbkc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/sports-and-leisure or ring 020 7938 8182.</p>	
<p>Every Thursday 10.30-11.30am</p>	<p>Meet inside the Holland Park Café, then share a leisurely walk in the park.</p>



Dates for your Diary

All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBKC are listed as 'ES'; where FHP have sponsored them, this is indicated. Unless otherwise stated, the meeting place is in the Ecology Centre near the Adventure Playground. Some must be booked, in which case please call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk. In order that some Ecology events can be free for participants, The Friends will continue to sponsor the walks and talks that are led by independent experts in their field and ensure their costs are covered.

Holland Park Conservation Volunteer days (for adults) are usually every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3.30pm; meet outside the café. No specialist skills are required, and this is your chance to make new friends while getting healthy outdoor exercise: digging, chopping and planting in the wilder parts of the park. Tea, biscuits, gloves, tools and instruction provided. Wear sturdy shoes and old clothes, and bring waterproofs and your lunch. For further information from the Ecology Team visit www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology, call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk

Sat 23 Mar	ES. Beginners' guide to birdwatching (sponsored). Must book	9-11.30am
Sat 6-Sun 14 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition (<i>see p.5</i>), in The Orangery	
Wed 10 Apr	Annual General Meeting (<i>see p.3</i>), in the Orangery	7:30pm
Thurs 11 Apr	ES. Spring botany walk (sponsored)	6-7.30pm
Fri 12 Apr	The Ancora Duo concert (<i>see p.6</i>), in the Orangery, £18	7.30pm
Sat 13 Apr	Moss walk. John Wells (<i>see p.3</i>). Must book	11am-1pm
Sat 27 Apr	ES. Dawn chorus bird walk (sponsored). Must book	5-7am
Sat 27 Apr	ES. Family birdsong walk (sponsored). Must book	8-10am
Thurs 9 May	ES. Spring bat walk (sponsored). Must book	8.30-10am
Sat 11 May	ES. Walk in the woods. Wildlife Area Open Afternoon	12 noon-4pm
Thurs 16 May	ES. Amphibian walk and talk. Must book	6-7.30pm
Sat 25 May	Spring tree walk , led by Alan Harrington	11am-1pm
Sat 1 June	ES. Nature photography walk. Must book	2-4pm
Sat 15 June	ES. Butterfly and moth morning (sponsored). Must book	10-11.30am
Thurs 4 July	ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Must book	6.30-8pm
Wed 10 July	Pimm's in the Park , marquee at east end of Dutch Garden, £18	6-8pm
Thurs 18 July	ES. Wild plants of Holland Park walk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Thurs 25 July	ES. Urban owls talk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 27 July	ES. Dragonflies walk and talk (sponsored). Must book	1-3pm

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The cover photo of the Iris Garden and Sibirica (the fountain), was taken by your editor in May 2014 from the top of the arcade, access having been gained by 'assisting' with the beehives there. Can you spot the peacock?

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.

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.



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