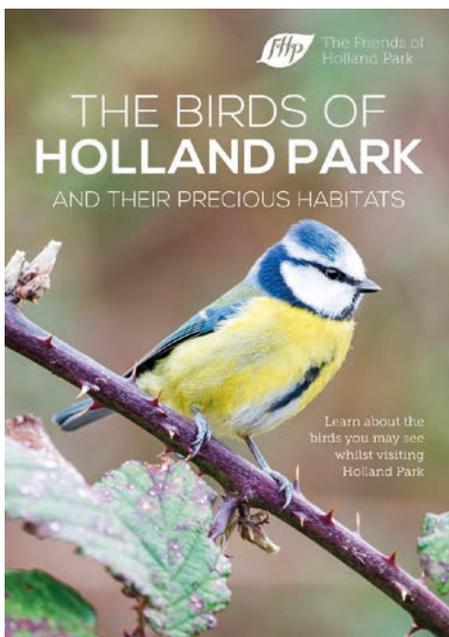


The Friends of Holland Park
Winter 2019



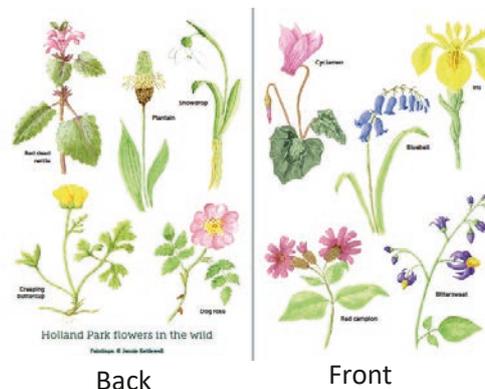
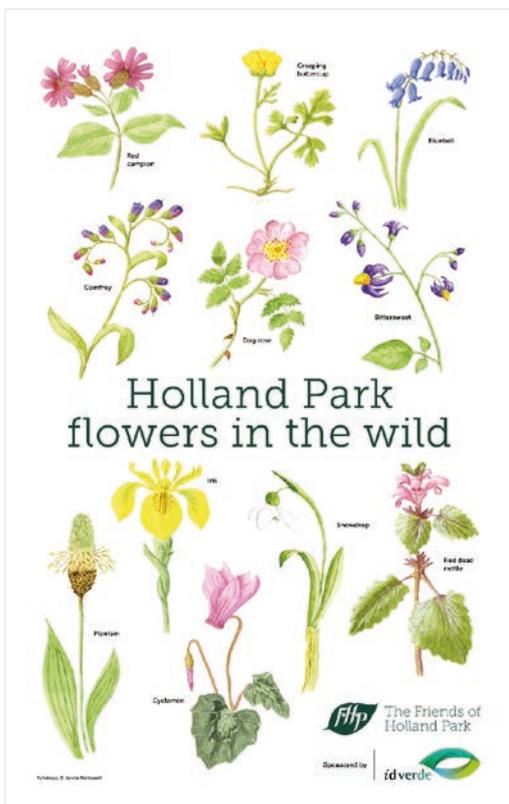
New! Bird guide, tea towel and greetings card

Guide to the Birds of Holland Park. 68 pages with full colour photographs and descriptions of 50 bird species that you can either see in the park, or can identify as they fly over the area.



- Best places to find these birds in the park
- Tips on bird watching
- How to identify the birds
- Spotters' check list
- Where to find out more

£6.00



Greetings card, with paintings on both back and front, but blank inside. includes envelope. 105 x 148 mm

£2.50 each.

All available from:

- Holland Park Reception in The Stable Yard
- Rhoddy Wood on 020 7602 0304 & rhoddy.wood@virgin.net
- Order on-line on www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org +P&P

Cotton tea towel. **£6.50**



Tuesday, 25 February 2020 at 7pm in the Orangery

Holland House and its grounds were bought by Henry Fox in 1768. Henry Fox's father, Sir Stephen Fox, was the first Earl of Ilchester and married into the Strangways family in Dorset. The Fox-Strangways enjoyed living at Holland House until World War II, when the house was hit by an incendiary bomb. The Fox-Strangways sold the house and grounds to the London County Council in 1952, but retain a shared interest with The Friends in the history of Holland House and the land around it. The residual estate outside the park, known as the Holland Park Estate, is now in the ownership of the 6th Earl of Ilchester's great-granddaughter, and is managed by Ilchester Estates.



Richard Tufnell

We are delighted that Richard Tufnell, Senior Property Manager of Ilchester Estates, has accepted our invitation to talk to the Friends about the Fox-Strangways family's links with Holland House and the area. The family completely renovated Holland House, added the 'Swannery' ballroom and created the original Japanese garden. Richard will, I am sure, have interesting stories to tell and fascinating pictures to show us from the archives.

Tickets are £18, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To order tickets, please use the order form that arrives with your newsletter, purchase from our website or via Eventbrite. If you use the Holland Park car park before 6.30pm, please remember that the meters no longer take cash.

Christmas Concert

Sunday, 8 December 2019, at 7.30pm, in the Orangery

You still have time to book for our popular winter event and our first taste of Christmas: under their conductor, Philip Simms, the wonderful singing of The Tallis Chamber Choir (and of us, the audience, of course), interspersed with readings; and we will have another chance to hear the lovely

carol composed by Friend Richard Moore. As usual, the evening will be rounded off with wine and Janice Miles's delicious canapés. Tickets, at £22, can be ordered on our website (www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org) or on the enclosed order form.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

11am-1pm, Saturday, 4 January 2020,
chez Rhoddy Wood, 21 Kenton Court,
356 Kensington High Street, W14 8NN

All members of the Friends are invited to celebrate the New Year on the first Saturday in January at this warming occasion. It is quite informal; come as you are and no RSVP: just turn up and enjoy the company of other Friends.



Historic tile conservation

The tiles on the wall under the arches in front of the café have been beautifully conserved. Richard Rogers Conservation experts filled damaged areas, delicately repainted missing images and replaced the protective layer. The work has been funded by The Friends. The next stage is for a tile-by-tile assessment of the tiles along the walkway above the café arches. The detailed proposal then goes to RBKC Property and a council conservation officer for approval. It is just possible this work can be completed before the site is closed in mid-March for Opera Holland Park's 2020 season.



Alvar of Richard Rogers Conservation at work

professionals about restoration or replacement of the fleur-de-lys balustrades. Time is getting tight for the work to be completed while the opera is off site during this winter.

Parks police

The demerger of the parks police force (Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea/ London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham) has happened and, once again, we have a team that focuses

on the parks in this borough. They know Holland Park well, and it is already evident that they are able to spend more time preventing problems. Their very presence, patrolling the park, acts as a deterrent to anyone with anti-social intentions. We are delighted that their base remains in Holland Park's Stable Yard.

Old tiled dairy



Broken fleur-de-lys balustrades

Restoration of the dairy building has been approved as part of the Holland House conservation work. Cracks will be repaired and damp ingress remedied. The Friends have been given the go-ahead to get a quote for conservation of the tiles. This is great progress.

Holland House conservation

The main conservation proposal has been approved and is the result of a very detailed assessment and carefully thought through solutions. The Friends have been kept in the picture throughout. The hold-up is due to a discussion amongst conservation

Erosion

Protective fencing has been installed around the trees to the north of the Sun Trap Lawn. There used to be chestnut fencing there, but it disintegrated and, as a consequence, cut-through paths are compacting the tree roots, wearing away the under storey plants and creating bare paths across the lawn itself. Fencing off the area for a period will allow the vegetation to recover. The area was indeed very compacted. Scott & Louis, who hammered in the fence posts, had a real job to get the posts into the concrete-hard ground.

Jennie Kettlewell



New fence by the Sun Trap Lawn

We know him as the builder and first owner of 'Cope's Castle', the name by which Holland House was first known. Many of us also know that he came from a family of small country landowners or gentlemen farmers whose names appear sporadically in local records from 1397 as MPs and holders of county and court offices.

Walter was a third son, but fortunate connections helped him to come to London where he gained employment, first with William Cecil, Lord High Treasurer to Elizabeth I and later with his son, Sir Robert Cecil, Earl of Salisbury and Secretary of State to James I. We think you will be interested to hear what some of this work involved. Walter held various posts such as official of the Court of Wards and the Courts Feodary of Oxfordshire, the equivalent of today's civil service. Promotion was by way of being appointed to further posts which all operated under the system of the day which was that the holder was expected to take a slice of all monies that passed through his hands. The Cecils at the top of the tree also followed this system. Some posts were extremely valuable, which allowed Walter to buy the four Kensington Manors and then build his house on the land. He also became personal assistant to Robert Cecil, managing improvements to buildings and grounds at Theobalds, the Cecil home in Hertfordshire.

He was the preferred route for anyone wanting to get a message to Cecil. He could put a request to Cecil and place it in a favourable but balanced light, but the decision always remained Cecil's. For instance Sir Walter Raleigh, imprisoned in the Tower, asked Cope for help in getting permission for his wife to visit him there. Or there was a young diplomat, Dudley Carleton, who was living abroad after being implicated in the gunpowder plot but had a friend, John Chamberlain, in London who spoke frequently to Walter on Carleton's behalf over five years until Carlton was eventually rehabilitated. Chamberlain wrote in many ways disparagingly of Walter (five years was too long?) but even he was impressed by 'The sincerity of Cope's determination to eschew all corruption.'

Walter was a fixer for the two Cecils to arrange whatever his boss wanted, which was often to please the king or queen, thus earning kudos for Cecil. What could give

more pleasure than theatrical entertainment? A letter survives from Walter to Robert Cecil:

'I have sent and been all this morning hunting for players, jugglers and such kind of creatures, but find them hard to find. Wherefore leaving notes for them to seek me, Burbage is come and says there is no new play that the Queen has not seen; but they have revived an old one called Love's Labour Lost, which for wit and mirth he says will please her exceedingly. And this is appointed to be played tomorrow night at my Lord of Southampton's unless you send a writ to remove the corpus cum causa to your house in the Strand. Burbage is my messenger ready attending your pleasure.'

There is arrogance here in the reference to 'such kind of creatures' and designating Shakespeare's manager as Walter's 'messenger'. This reflects the general view of actors at that period, and it could be safe to assume that those beneath Walter in the social hierarchy found courtiers irritating and snobbish. Nevertheless a good fixer can be invaluable oil in society.

Intermingled with his public life were private strands. He appears to have been a loving husband and father but a poor judge of investments, which combined with his extravagant building meant he died in debt. He gave books to Thomas Bodley of the Bodlean Library. He had a great interest in antiquities and was renowned across Europe for his collection or 'cabinet' described as 'the most important wonder cabinet in Renaissance England'. It is thought that this influenced John Tradescant the Elder, whose own cabinet became the basis of the Ashmolean Museum. Perhaps of especial interest to us today is that Tradescant planted exotic trees in the grounds of Cope's Castle.

This article is mostly based on researches of William Cope of Pennsylvania who is descended from our Walter Cope's great-grandfather. We came in contact with this William when he ordered copies of the Families and Pleasure Grounds of Holland House and we picked up on his name. We are very grateful to him, but all mistakes are mine.

Rhoddy Wood



Art Exhibition

With all the changes in the world, I get great comfort from our community and its traditions, one being this exhibition: it uplifts me enormously.

We had another successful exhibition last spring, achieving just a little under our record year in 2017. I received positive feedback; more locals know about the event, posters are being seen, physically and electronically: The Friends are now reaching out via social media. Once the art exhibition has been discovered it is not forgotten. The exhibition is becoming an annual tradition for visitors just as much as for the artists, organisers and Friends. Please help us build on this success: e-mail the exhibition poster and arrange to meet your clients in the Orangery. Weekends are too busy; however, on weekdays, if you have someone coming to see your work and you cannot get to the Orangery, just let me know and I will make sure one of the stewards on that day can show them your work and answer any questions.

Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to exhibit up to ten works; two framed works to hang on the walls, and up to eight unframed works for display in the portfolio browser stands, with a maximum size of 70 x 100cm (including mounts, but no wooden mounts please). Friends are also

invited to exhibit up to ten three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, glassware and small sculptures, or enter the mini-market of small works on offer at £40 or less, including cards and craft items. The minimum price for works in the main exhibition will be £50.

Friends interested in exhibiting in the art exhibition, the mini-market or both, need to register by completing the enclosed order form and pay the £10 entry fee. Artists who have registered for the main exhibition may also include small works in the mini-market at no additional cost. Please send your completed form to Liz Merica as soon as possible, as space is limited; and when enough artists have registered we cannot accept any more.

Information about The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition is available on our website, www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org, or from me, Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place, London, W8 5BJ; tel: 020 7937 7222; e-mail: gordon.l.french@gmail.com

All the information regarding the 2020 exhibition Feature Artist and the sponsor will be detailed in the spring newsletter.

Gordon French

Art Exhibition Timetable

Friday, 27 March	Final date for completed artist exhibit details forms to be received to allow catalogue listing
Friday, 17 April	Artists deliver artworks to the Orangery, Holland Park, 8.30-11am All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that all details shown are correct
Friday, 17 April	Hanging and judging, 11am-6pm
Friday, 17 April	Private View, 7.30-9.30pm
Saturday, 18 April	Private View, 10.30am-12.30pm (Exhibiting artists are entitled to one artist ticket and four complimentary guest tickets. To receive, artists will need to state the day, and number of tickets required.)
Saturday, 18 April	Exhibition open to the public, 1-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 19 to Sunday, 26 April	Exhibition open to the public 10.30am-6pm. Entry free of charge
Sunday, 26 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 6-7pm
Monday, 27 April	Artists and buyers collect works, 9-11am

Artists are particularly asked **not to collect their works before 6pm on SUNDAY, 26 April**



Staff Vine

idverde is currently focusing much care and attention on pruning, both for the health of the plants and to enhance their beauty.

In the Mediterranean Bed, alongside the north wall of the Dutch Garden, you will notice a vine that has been cut back and beautifully arranged on the wall itself. We think this is a Staff Vine (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). It has been there for years but has not advertised itself until now. Being deciduous, it will not do much until the spring when we expect to see simple green leaves followed by small greenish flowers that develop into round green fruits.

The pines have also been given expert treatment, using a Japanese technique called 'needling'.

It involves thinning out the needles to allow more air into the crown and encourage bud growth for the next year. It keeps the tree compact and stops it getting straggly. Already 'needled' are the two Bhutan pines (*Pinus wallichiana*) in the Kyoto Garden, the row of small Japanese White pines (*Pinus parviflora*) in front of the bamboo fence above the stepped entrance to the Kyoto Garden, and the two pines in the beds immediately north of the Iris Garden. These are *Pinus parviflora* in the west bed and a Bosnian pine (*Pinus heldreichii*) in the east bed. We hope these pines respond with healthy green foliage in the coming years.

Text and photos: Jennie Kettlewell



Japanese White Pine

Mystery Bust in the Belvedere Tower



Jennie Kettlewell

Now that the scaffolding has been removed from the Belvedere tower, stand below it and look up inside it. You will see the stone bust of someone who must have been important to Holland House, but who is it? He does not look particularly like the pictures of any of the occupants of the great house. One of our members thinks it might be Disraeli, who was certainly a visitor. Have a look and do let one of the trustees know who you think it might be.

Good Samaritan

A member of the Friends let fall his Freedom Pass as he got off the bus. A fellow passenger saw and chased after him but failed to catch him, which left the Good Samaritan wondering how to restore it to him. Luckily she was both public spirited and energetic, so when she saw that a FHP membership card had fallen with the pass, she looked up a contact number for your Secretary, rang, and on being assured that I had his address, posted the pass and card to me to be forwarded. He was so pleased that he made a donation to the Friends in gratitude, although your Secretary felt that it was really the good Samaritan who should have received this.

Monica has been promoted to the important role of RBKC Parks Manager. The previous incumbent, Ian Ross, has left to look after Lambeth's parks. The Parks Manager role involves vision for, and management of some 90 parks, green spaces and cemeteries in the Royal Borough. That is a pretty significant portfolio.

The Friends are delighted at Monica's appointment because she knows Holland Park well, having been in previous park-related posts in the Borough for over 12 years, and already works with most of the stakeholders. The best news is that she intends to take a strategic approach to the challenges of our busy park, and she is already scoping projects that will make a positive difference. An example is the resurfacing of the road between the Ilchester and Duchess of Bedford Gates, which will be edged with kerb stones, and all service cables will be bundled into a buried conduit for easy access when repairs are necessary. Alongside this, the dogs-off-lead area will be aerated and hydro-seeded with strong grass so that dogs have something better than dust to run on. Removal of the ailing red chestnut trees along the north sports field fence will let in light



Monica Castelino briefing Mayor Cllr Will Pascal at the opening of the Adventure Playground

that encourages the grass to grow. No small project then, and dealt with comprehensively.

Monica has other projects on the boil, but please be patient. She has a wide-ranging role, but no support until the recruitment process is complete. The Friends will give her as much help as we can, which does not mean we always have to agree.

As a communications professional, with considerable experience in strategic planning for parks, Monica will be instrumental in keeping our park in good shape for those who visit it, while helping to ensure it also gives pleasure to future generations.

She comments: 'Having grown up with Holland Park as my local park, to now be responsible for caring for it and protecting its future, is both nerve-wracking and exciting, and it means a lot to me that the Friends support my appointment to this role. My focus is going to be on strategy and future planning, but most of all communicating our processes and how we work, making how we operate as transparent as possible so that park users understand why we do what we do and the long-term benefits for people, wildlife and the environment.'

Text and photo: Jennie Kettlewell

Abigail Martin Moves from Parks to Town Hall Role

We are really going to miss Abigail who moves from Parks Service Officer to a new position in the finance team in Kensington Town Hall. She has looked after us in Holland Park for a good few

years and is known for always getting things done. A big 'thank you', Abi, and we wish you well. At least you haven't moved too far away.

Treecreeper sighting



When we produced the guide to Holland Park's birds in June 2019, we said we thought treecreepers might still be in the park but there had not been a sighting for many years. Well now there has. Trevor Bowyer, from the Ecology Service, spotted one on 16 September in the woodlands. Keep your eyes open and you might see a small brown bird creeping up the trunk of a tree in mouse-like fashion. It never creeps down, but speeds down and then creeps up another tree.

Treecreeper

Our new design is by Catherine Masterman who gave us such a popular card last year. This is of Lord Holland with his pond with a cast of avian as well as human visitors, but the pigeons have been banished to the ground. It is in the same slightly swirly cheerful style as before, and we hope a lot of you will brighten up your friends' mantelpieces with it.



HO20 Lord Holland's Statue

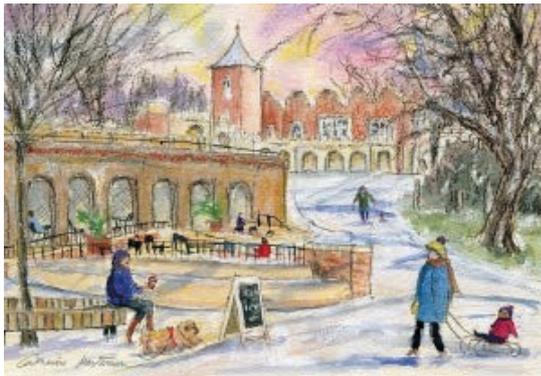
big ones in at least four or five different designs. These can all be very quickly delivered. And then there is a broad range of other views you can see in the brochure that you had with the autumn newsletter (replacements available on request). It would be a great help if you could order soon to avoid last minute shortages. If your newsletter is hand delivered (no stamp) our

We will hold a ready supply of these cards in both the standard 152 mm x 197 mm format at £10 the pack of ten, and the small 118 mm x 168 mm at £8.50. We will also make up mixed packs of old designs of Holland Park at £6.50, which will be very largely of

delivery is free, but beyond that we have to charge an additional £1.70 per 10 cards. Or you might prefer to order on line where there is a handy list of postcodes to show whether you get free delivery.

Rhoddy Wood

Christmas Presents



Winter Fun in Holland Park

A full list of our Neighbours and discounts offered is on the Friends' website. Warm feelings all round, and an unexpected advantage of being a member.

Rhoddy Wood

The Friends' jigsaw, 'Winter Fun in Holland Park' (£23.50 inc. p&p), and the cotton tea towel showing paintings of flowers that grow wild in Holland Park (£7.50 inc. p&p), make excellent Christmas presents. Order online: thefriendsofhollandpark.org or send a cheque with your delivery address to Liz Merica (see p.15 for her address).

The local retailers in our Friends & Neighbours discount scheme offer lots of ideas for presents: artisan handbags, hats, jewellery, toiletries and tasty foods from Havan, presents for the home from Lipp, plants and flowers from Rassells, picture framing from Gallery 19, fine foods and wine from Jeroboam. If you're visiting friends and relatives over the festive season, why not hire a car from Miles & Miles. Or enjoy some holiday cheer at one of the restaurants and cafés in our scheme. They support us with a special price for our members, and we should support them.



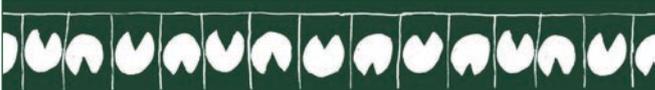
JEROBOAMS
LONDON'S LOCAL WINE MERCHANT



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

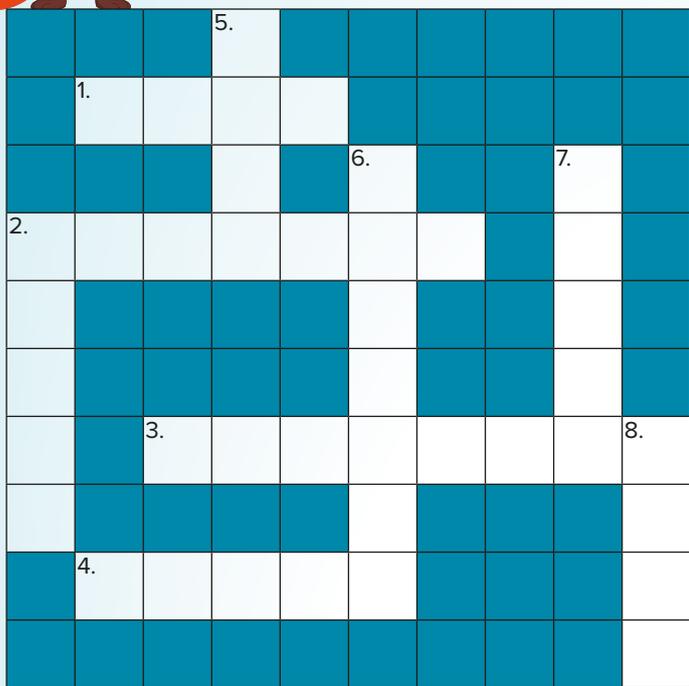






Hi there **kids!**

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



Across

1. It often falls from the sky in winter
2. Water lying on the ground. You might jump in them
3. Times when you are not at school
4. You give and receive them at Christmas

Down

2. _____ bear. Found in the Arctic
5. The opposite of warm
6. Red things on a holly bush
7. Your hat might blow off if it's _____
8. What you wear inside your shoe



Omar Owl says: "Did you know?"

Sometimes the water in the Kyoto pond doesn't look very clean.

But that's just how the Koi fish like it because it is full of nourishment. If you replace their water with clean water from the tap, the fish would get ill as tap water has chlorine in it and that kills all the good bacteria.

So, the water isn't really dirty, it's good for the fish.



Could you be a Holland Park Detective?

Young detectives were in the park during October half term, following clues and spotting things. Some did drawings.

The detectives will be in the park again on **Wednesday 19 February**, during half term. Come along to the Café Yard between 10.00 am – 4.00pm and test your spotting skills. Our activities are free and there is no need to book.



The Rose Garden by Bethel



Bethel & balloon by Mia



A tree by Riccardo

Ridiculous riddle... Can you guess the answer?

What did the tree do when the bank closed?

Answer at bottom of page.

Most of you will know the purpose-built Ecology Centre in Holland Park, which is kept busy with learning, activities and events for both children and adults. I wonder if the wider activities of the small Ecology team are as well known.



Common pipistrelle bat

Leanne Brisland heads up the team and is the Ecology Service Manager for the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea. Her role includes:

- advising on the management of open spaces to enhance biodiversity within the borough
- developing local policies for nature conservation
- protecting sites which are important for nature conservation
- advising on ecological aspects of planning applications
- developing and promoting volunteer opportunities to increase contact with nature
- promoting awareness and understanding of biodiversity and the local environment.

What does that mean in practice for Holland Park. Fortunately for us, it ensures our excellent habitats are well planned, managed and protected. These are mainly in the woodland areas to the north of the park, and we have an impressive variety of flora and fauna.

The Ecology Service is required to submit a Local Biodiversity Action Plan, detailing priorities for protecting habitats and species, surveys of flora and fauna, raising local awareness of the importance of biodiversity, and encouraging local communities to get involved in protecting and enhancing the Borough's biodiversity. The next Plan is due in 2020 and will take into account views of a wide range of conservation experts, local organisations and individuals. It must be linked to the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy for London. This is no small undertaking, and the last Plan ran to some 86 pages of vision, plans and detailed measurements.

A list of surveys undertaken in Holland Park and the Borough can be found on:

<https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/wildlife/biodiversity/royalboroughecologysurveys.aspx>

The Friends would like to see a new bird survey, as the last was undertaken in 2009, and also a new wild flower survey. The first survey will however be carried out to establish bat habits and habitats. We have a healthy population of bats in the park but knowing more about their

roosting and foraging behaviours will help the ecology service to provide appropriate habitats for them. This is important because bats are legally protected and a priority species for London. We hope a bird survey will follow before too long. Surveys undertaken by the Ecology Service are sent to the Greenspace Information for Greater London (GiGL) which is the environmental records centre for the capital.

The Ecology Service is responsible for the beehives in Arboretum 1 and is improving the pollinator meadow. No honey will be harvested this year, as the bees are going through 'queen succession'. This weakens the colonies as the bees prepare for a new queen, so the honey has been left for the benefit of the bees. Queen succession is a common experience in London this year, probably due to drought in the summer of 2018 and the very warm weather that has followed.



Bee

Once funding is in place, the ecology service intends to run a three-year pilot nature wellbeing programme, based on helping residents benefit from quiet activities in the park in the context of nature. There is much medical evidence that this 'mindfulness' in a woodland setting has health benefits, such as lowering blood pressure and heart rate as well as inducing calmness.

Keep an eye on the ecology section of the RBKC website to check on the full list of activities and events once the 2020 programme is uploaded. The Ecology Service is indeed a very busy team.

Jennie Kettlewell

Led by Dr Mark Spencer again, this was another highly successful event; even the rain held off, though the morning had been really wet. The audience was the usual mixture of experts interested in recording what was growing this year, those keen to learn identification, and those just delighting in the beauty and variety of these natural wonders. Mark was capable of engrossing them all. He started by making the point that mushroom toxins can only be absorbed through the stomach, so even the most poisonous can be handled safely, and there is no need to wash your hands before eating a



living wood (image 3), sometimes species dependent, in leaf litter or grass; in rows (trooping) or circles; singly or in clumps; the shape: 'typical' mushroom, flat or concave as in bird nests fungi, which have small dimples that catch rain drops and splash them out dispersing the



sandwich, as the minute quantities that could be sticking to your fingers would do no harm. He also stressed that no one attending one or two talks by any expert should consider they had sufficient knowledge to choose safely what could be

eaten. This is because every species has many identifying characteristics, and all, not just one or two, have to be considered before any true judgement can be made.

So the walk became an illustrated lecture in what to look for. Take colour: this can be the colour of the top of the cap (image 1), of the shank, of the gills, of the spores, the juices, or the flesh when bruised or rubbed. Remember that some colours are water soluble, so can wash away. The renowned fly agaric, scarlet with white spots, the origin of Santa Claus' red-and-white colour scheme, can be yellow and white after rain. The texture: brittle (breaking with an audible snap), tough and fibrous or gloopy; the surface: smooth, spiky, shaggy (image 2), wrinkled or with glittering granules like a dusting of mica; what it grows on and where: rotten or



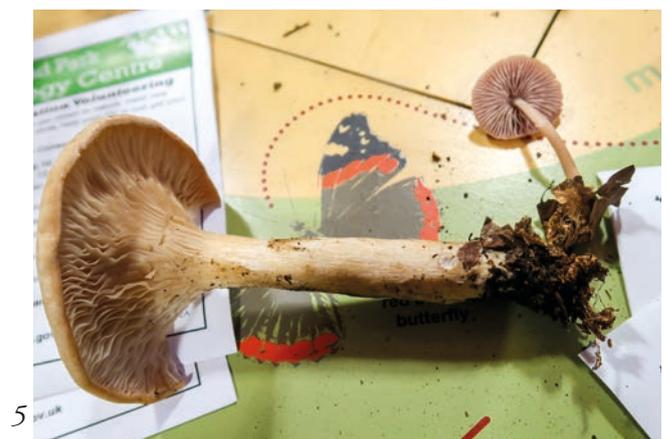
rotten or

spores, smooth funnel or more free-form funnel, brackets, priapic, or snuff candles which give off clouds of spores when flicked. Does the remnant of the veil (image 4) form a ring around the stem? Are the gills free or attached (image 5)? Scent is very important, but you need to distinguish layers of scent, disregarding the basic mushroom and earthy scents rather as a wine taster does. Beneath them, if it smells bad, it probably is. Marzipan and almond are the only sweet scents that might be good. Avoid stale, chemical, acid drops or overcooked cabbage smells. Size is not much help as it varies mainly with the amount of nutrient available, as can be seen with many clumps where the central (first) specimens are much larger than the outer ones.



Mark said some species were common, but frequently there were observations such as 'rare in Central London', 'Hyde Park is the only other site in Central London', 'most species are absent from the southern part of Holland Park', which makes us realise how lucky we are still to have the woodlands in our park where such varied and intriguing organisms can flourish.

Text and photos: Rhoddy Wood



We have so far run four tours, each led by one of two qualified Blue Badge Guides, Leila Sukiur and Rowan Freeland. Tickets sold fast and we had a waiting list, so we have decided to book further dates for early 2020. We will start with two history tours, which need to happen before the front terrace of Holland House is reclaimed by Opera Holland Park for the 2020 season:

- Thursday, 20 February at 2pm
- Saturday, 7 March at 11am

Each tour will last between one and a half to two hours and will be limited to a small group so all can hear the fascinating stories about the park and its history and have an opportunity to ask questions. Those of us that went on this year's tours were impressed by how



Holland House after it was bombed, but still with its upper storeys, later removed for safety reasons

much we had not known. Decorative Art tours will be fixed for later in the spring and advertised in the spring newsletter.

Guide Rowan Freeland comments: 'Leila and I really enjoyed putting these tours together. Holland Park has a fascinating history which we greatly enjoyed researching. Finding the remains of the nineteenth

century Japanese garden was a real excitement! It was quite a challenge to put the stories together into a coherent walking tour. We hope that, as guides, we can convey our enthusiasm for this wonderful corner of London to the Friends who join us on our tours.'

Booking is essential. To book a ticket, visit www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or call Jennie Kettlewell on 020 7243 0804. The cost is £8 per person. The meeting point will be shown on the ticket.

Local Events Run by Neighbouring Organisations

Late 2019 and early 2020

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:

18 Jan. 2.30pm: Fiona Edmond, owner and creator of Green Island Gardens, will talk about winter colour in the garden. Plants for sale during tea.

22 Feb. 2.30pm: Club meeting. Check website for details.

Opera Holland Park

(All information from www.operahollandpark.com. Tickets available from 0300 999 1000):

7 December: Christmas Concert, St Columba's Church, Pont Street, London SW1X 0BD. Details and tickets: <https://operahollandpark.com/events/christmas-concert> Price TBC.

The Kensington Society

(All information and on-line booking on www.kensingtonsociety.org/events)

Details of 2020 events will be on the Kensington Society website (see above).

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, 10.30-11.30am: Meet inside the Holland Park Café, then share a leisurely walk in the park.



Dates for your Diary

All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**; unless otherwise stated, the meeting place is outside the stable yard (the meeting places for the tours will be printed on your ticket). 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. There is a charge for those marked £. 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 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, and you do not have to stay for the whole time. Tea, gloves, tools and instruction are 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

Sun 8 Dec	Christmas Concert: Tallis Chamber Choir, in the Orangery, £22 (<i>see p.3</i>)	7.30pm
Sat 4 Jan	Mulled Wine and Mince Pies (<i>see p.3</i>)	11am-1pm
Sat 15 Feb	ES. Winter Tree Walk: identify tree bark and leaves. Must book	1-3pm
Mon 17- Fri 21 Feb	ES. Children's half-term holiday activities. Must book £	
Thur 20 Feb	History tour, £8 (<i>see p.13</i>)	2pm
Tues 25 Feb	'The Ilchester Family and Holland Park' in The Orangery, £18 (<i>see p.3</i>)	7pm
Sat 7 Mar	History tour, £8 (<i>see p.13</i>)	11am
Sat 21 Mar	ES. Beginner's Guide to bird-watching, David Darrell-Lambert (sponsored). Must book	9.30-11.30am
Sat 18- Sun 26 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition (<i>see p.6</i>), in the Orangery	
Wed 22 Apr	Annual General Meeting, in the Orangery	7.30pm
Fri 24 Apr	Ancora Duo concert (<i>Details follow in the spring newsletter</i>)	7.30pm

President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Membership Administrator Liz Merica

Treasurer Silvi Spassov

Events Organiser Graham Franklin

Editor and Minutes Secretary Joy Puritz

Publicity Nigel Brockmann

Art Exhibition Sandra French

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Trustee for Ecology Matters Richard Kulczycki

Park Observer Andy Walker

Our website address: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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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.

The cover photo was taken by Friend Edward Hill on 27 February 2018, from south of the Fukushima Garden.





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