

The Friends of Holland Park
Winter 2011





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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 all and would ask you to show your thanks by supporting them, please.

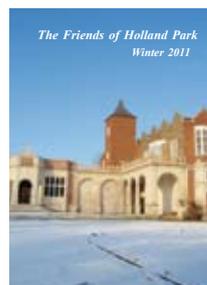
Diana Midgley

Many of our members will have known Diana who was tragically killed in a road accident on 14 March. She was a hugely respected member of the Kensington community, of the RBK&C Conservatives, and an active supporter of St Philip's Church, the RNLI and the British Legion, not to mention The Friends. We are delighted to acknowledge a generous donation in her memory from The Cowley Charitable Trust, of which she was the benefactor and settlor. We are very grateful. Rest in peace, Diana.

Tallis Chamber Choir

Christmas Concert, Sunday 4 December, 7.30pm

Our most popular annual event is almost upon us, so do book soon using the enclosed order form which can also be downloaded from our website.



The cover photo of Holland House and its terrace was taken on 8 January 2010. [See p.12 for news about the terrace.]

Rickshaws, Bridges and Teahouses

How the Japanese-Style Garden Came to the British Isles



Wednesday, 22 February 2012, 7pm in the Orangery.

The Japanese-style gardens of the British Isles are often portrayed as a minor aberration in garden design or as an insignificant frippery lurking in an Edwardian woodland garden, but the true story is far more fascinating and reveals how these gardens have added to the richness of British garden history and design styles. With Holland Park's recently re-designed Kyoto Garden still fresh in our minds, we thought members would appreciate a wider view of Japanese-style gardens in the British Isles,



Dr Jill Raggett

and we have been lucky enough to find Dr Jill Raggett to give us an illustrated talk on this subject. Dr Raggett is Reader in Gardens and Designed Landscapes, and Manager of the Centre for the Arts and Design in the Environment at Writtle College, Writtle School of Design, Chelmsford, so is well qualified to enlighten us. We are sure it will be a most interesting evening which will be rounded off as usual by Janice Miles' delicious canapés. Tickets £12.

New Trustees

At your committee's September meeting, Carron Batt, Gordon French and Jennie Kettlewell were co-opted as trustees, as proposed and detailed in the autumn newsletter.

We still have one position to fill, to replace our chairman, Nicholas Hopkins, who will stand down at the AGM next March. It goes without saying that this is a key role for us, and all members should be actively thinking of potential candidates to help the organisation find the right person to lead us over the next few years. Please do so and communicate your ideas either to Rhoddy Wood or Nicholas Hopkins.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

11am to 1pm Saturday 7 January, 2012
21 Kenton Court, 356 Kensington High Street,
W14 8NN

Your secretary's seasonal gathering will once again take place on the morning after the Bird Walk. All Friends are welcome whether they have got cold in the park or come straight from a cosy bed. This is your invitation. Just turn up; no reply needed.



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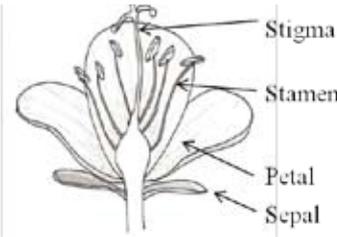


Fig.1. Parts of a flower

When I first got interested in flowers I assumed the pretty bits I was looking at were petals. Sometimes that is true, but flowers are clever and have

developed in different ways to give them the best chance of surviving and producing future generations in a highly competitive environment. They can use colour, scent, mimicry or nectar to attract pollinators.

Flowers are normally made up of a number of petals outside which are sepals, usually green, that form the protective outside of the flower bud. At the centre of the flower are male stamens that bear the reproductive pollen at their tip and the female stigma that receives the pollen [see Fig. 1.] And then there are flowers that do not play by the rules.



Fig.2. Bottlebrush in flower

Flowers with showy stamens

You might have noticed the *Callistemon subulatus* (Bottlebrush) which has been in Holland Park's Mediterranean bed along the north wall of the Dutch Garden. It was a fine sight in June and July with its clusters of flowers forming crimson 'brushes' around the stem [see Figs 2 & 3]. The petals are so small you do not notice them, and the crimson haze is formed from the profusion of long red stamens that quiver in the breeze and serve to make the pollen easily available.

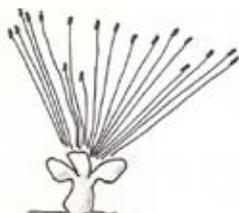


Fig.3. Bottlebrush 'brush'

Also enjoying the Mediterranean bed, an *Azara serrata*, a native tree of Chile, was a beautiful sight last May and June with its mass of ochre-yellow

fragrant flowers. These flowers have no petals at all. Again it is the pollen-bearing stamens we see,

forming a brush-shaped flower, but we notice them as attractive without really thinking about what makes them different [see Figs 4 & 5].



Fig.4. *Azara serrata* tree in flower

Flowers with prominent bracts

In May, as you enter the Kyoto Garden by the ramp entrance, you will see on your left a small tree

with elegant layered branches and large flowers which appear to have four white petals and a lime green knob in the centre. This is a *Cornus kousa* or Strawberry Dogwood and it is deceptive. The white bits are bracts (modified leaves), not petals, and the green knobs are the true flowers [see Fig. 6]. The bracts differ from the leaves in size, shape and colour and have a different function.

The flowers, being small and not obviously interesting to a pollinator, need some help. That is where the showy white bracts are useful. There is a view that these bracts are able to absorb ultra-violet light and therefore attract pollinators that have an eye structure that allows them to see this light.

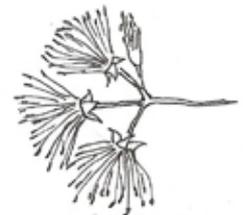


Fig.5. *Azara* 'brush'

The *Davidia involuocrata* (Dove or Pocket Handkerchief tree) from China has even larger and showier white bracts to compensate for its flowers' lack of attractants in the form of petals or nectar. The lower of the two bracts can be up to 20 cm long, giving the tree an appearance of being decked out with pocket handkerchiefs when it flowers in May [see Fig. 7.] The bracts start off green and only turn white when it is time to fulfil their function of assisting the true flowers



Fig.6. *Strawberry dogwood* bracts

to pollinate. Holland Park has three of these trees: one leaning over the east fence of what was the squash court and later the vegetable garden, one in the

Dry Garden and the other newly planted on the Peacock Lawn, visible from outside the fence. The first of these is the only one mature enough to flower.



Fig.7. Pocket Handkerchief tree bracts

Sepals that provide the flower colour

The Hellebores in the Acer Walk are a lovely sight in winter and early spring, with the freckled creamy white and pink flowers gleaming in the low sunlight. The colour usually provided by petals is instead furnished by sepals. The true petals are of an unusual form and you do not really notice them, though they do produce rewarding nectar for the pollinators. As they are hard to see, the plants need a different strategy for attracting pollinating insects and that is the important role of the sepals that look like petals [see Figs 8 & 9]. You might have noticed that each ‘flower’ on these

Hellebores lasts well into the year and does not drop off as petals would. They stay on the plant but change to a pale brown colour, dry out and eventually deteriorate rather than fall off. Some think the reason they remain is to protect and aid the development of seeds.



Fig.8. Hellebores in Acer Walk

Next time you are walking in Holland Park take a closer look at the flowers and see if you can work out just how they have changed the rules to give themselves the best chance of survival.

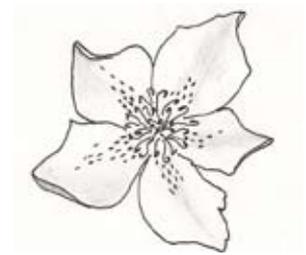


Fig.9. Hellebore flower, showing sepals

Text, drawings and photos by Jennie Kettlewell

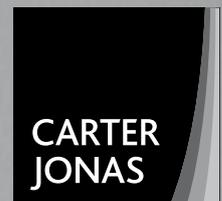


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Art Exhibition

24 March – 1 April 2012
The Orangery, Holland Park

It is that time of year when we start thinking about the next year's Art Exhibition in The Orangery.

In the autumn newsletter reference was made to Andy Walker stepping down as organiser of the exhibition, and Gordon French taking over. This has taken place seamlessly due to Andy's first-class administration.

What an exciting time to take over the Art Exhibition. Next year is its 30th year and I hope the Friends are as excited as I am. What a milestone! All the normal arrangements and conditions will remain the same as in previous years – full details outlined below – but **to celebrate the 30th anniversary the committee has agreed to run, in parallel with the main exhibition, a Young Painters Competition.**

Young painters in the borough, of ages 10 to 18, will be invited to enter one A4 work per person, in any medium, but the subject must be Holland Park. A separate judging panel will nominate one winner, two runners-up and nine highly-commended works, giving us twelve prize-winners. The twelve paintings will be displayed on a special wall in the Orangery and prizes will be art supplies of various values. The committee believes it is an important development in introducing young painters to Holland Park and we hope that they might become future Friends. Full details and information of this competition will be available soon.

Now to the main exhibition. Conditions of entry remain unchanged. Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to exhibit up to ten works: two framed works for hanging on the walls and up to eight unframed works for display in the portfolio stands, with a maximum size of 70 x 100cm (including mounts). Friends are also invited to exhibit up to ten three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, glassware

and small sculptures. The Mini-Mart of small works on offer at £40 and under, including cards and craft items, will also be repeated.

Friends interested in exhibiting in the Art Exhibition, either in the main exhibition or the Mini-Mart, need to register by filling in a form (enclosed in this newsletter) and pay the £10 entry fee. Please note that artists who have registered for the main exhibition may also include small works in the Mini-Mart at no additional cost. Completed registration forms should be sent to Rhoddy Wood as soon as possible because space is limited, and when enough artists have registered we cannot accept any more. Information on the Art Exhibition is available on www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or directly from Gordon French at gordon.l.french@gmail.com or by post with an s.a.e., DL size (standard oblong business-letter size).



Photo by Andy Walker

The Poster Competition will also be repeated and entries must be with Gordon French by 17 February 2012. The objective of the poster is to publicise the Art Exhibition with something that is both eye-catching and informative. While there is no 'prize' for the chosen poster the

design will be reproduced both in colour and in black and white and will benefit from maximum exposure, displayed throughout Holland Park as well as in local shops, cafés and restaurants. It will be printed on the cover of the exhibition catalogue, and copies will be available for sale at the exhibition. A full briefing can be found on the Friends of Holland Park website under Events/ Artex, or obtained from Gordon French.

We hope next year will be the biggest and best exhibition to celebrate 30 years. Encourage your friends to come along, it is so worthwhile. We want to raise funds for The Friends of Holland Park, gain favourable publicity and attract new members, but most of all we want your participation as artists and art-lovers, so do register now.

Art Exhibition Timetable



Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to exhibit.

Administration

Fri 17 February	Entries for the poster competition must be with Gordon French
Fri 3 March	Last date for receipt of exhibits details form to allow listing in catalogue <i>5 free preview tickets sent to each artist if we have been informed of date preference</i>
Fri 23 March	9am-12 noon. Artists deliver work to The Orangery, Holland Park <i>Artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that the details shown are correct</i>
Fri 23 March	12 noon-6pm. Works hung/displayed
Sun 1 April	6.30-7.30pm. Buyers collect sold works/artists collect unsold works
Mon 2 April	9-11am. Buyers collect sold works/artists collect unsold works

*Artists are particularly asked
NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6.30pm ON SUNDAY 1 April
as this would spoil the exhibition for others, and to
ENSURE THAT ALL WORKS ARE COLLECTED BY 11am, MONDAY 2 April*

Exhibition Opening Times

Private Views

Sat 24 March	10.30-12.30pm. Private View, entry by ticket at £3
Mon 26 March	7.30 -9.30pm. Private View, entry by ticket at £3

Artists are entitled to 5 free tickets between the two private views, to be ordered on the exhibits details form

Open to the Public

Free of Charge

Sat 24 March	1 – 6pm
Sun 25 March – Sun 1 April	10.30am – 6.30pm

The AGM of The Friends of Holland Park will be held on Wednesday 28 March at 7.30pm

Enquiries to: Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place, London W8 5BJ
0207 9377222 gordon.l.french@gmail.com

Having worked in the theatre for a while, 'surrounded by egos', Dr Luke Dixon decided that he would like to be around more peaceful creatures, and hit upon bees. At his fascinating talk in the Orangery on 27 October we learnt that bees are mostly quite docile, especially when swarming – surprisingly. He showed us a photo of a swarm which had attached itself to a bollard in the West End of London; it had been cordoned off by the police awaiting the services of Dr Dixon, who came and brushed them off the bollard into a box with his hands. They dropped in quite passively.

Dr Dixon looks after beehives all over London, in Princess

Margaret's garden at Kensington Palace, many on rooftops, for instance those of the London School of Fashion or the Lancaster Hotel (the hotel chef helps to look after the bees and uses the honey), so we saw some wonderful photos of bee's-eye views of the capital, with one of Paris thrown in, taken from the roof

of the opera house. One of his favourite places is the delightful Wild Life Garden of the Natural History Museum where he has kept bees for nine years. Keeping bees in urban areas is surprisingly successful; in London they tend to forage largely in trees such as chestnuts and limes. Somehow they seem to be able to filter out urban pollution so that the honey is as tasty and healthy as in the countryside.

Bees are thought to have existed for about 130 million years, about the same time as plants. Here we have a somewhat perplexing chicken-and-egg situation: neither bees nor plants can survive without each other since bees are fed by plants which are pollinated by bees; and, incidentally,

without bees we humans would starve. We were shown a photo of a cave painting, about 7,000 years old, of a woman up a tree robbing honey from bees, that could be seen flying around her. They would have their nests in holes in trees. Until cane sugar was grown, honey was the only sweetener people could use; it is also full of nutrients: vitamins and beneficial enzymes. The other useful product of bees is beeswax, for a long time the only wax for candles which did not produce a lot of nasty smoke, so it was invaluable for lighting cathedrals and churches. This led to a tradition of beekeeping by monasteries and other ecclesiastical institutions. But there is much earlier evidence of beekeeping which was

certainly carrying on by the time of the Pharaohs: a still perfectly edible sample of honey has been found in an ancient burial chamber.

The earliest kinds of hives were simple dome-shaped containers called skeps, made of straw or raffia; but in order to get the honey and wax out the bees

always had to be killed. Then, about 150 years ago, an American named Lorenzo Langstroth invented hives with rectangular frames onto which the bees were encouraged to build their honeycombs. These could be lifted out safely one by one for taking the honey and wax, and then replaced. From these came the WBC hives, named after William Boughton-Carr who designed them as a series of boxes one above the other; the bottom box is where the queen bee is kept and looked after by the workers: a shield over that section has no holes large enough for her to escape; this ensures that the boxes above (usually two in the traditional British 'national' hives), with their rectangular frames, will only be used by the bees to make honey. There is now also a modern type of hive



Photo by Richard Twilton

Dr Dixon on the roof of the Lancaster Hotel



called a beehaus developed by a German, Johannes Paul, especially for amateur urban beekeepers. It is a simple box shape, made of plastic, and available in various colours. The 'national' hives are usually made of the naturally oily cedar wood which the bees love and which can last for over a hundred years. Unlike the beehaus these would survive a blow torch that might have to be used to eliminate disease.

The queen only leaves the hive for two reasons: to mate or to swarm. After mating she will return to the hive and lay between one and three thousand eggs a day which she fertilises. This is just as well because the female workers, who do all the work, die of exhaustion after six weeks and need replacing. There are about fifty to sixty-thousand bees in a hive at any one time. There would only be about 200 males, the drones, 'hanging around waiting for sex'. Every now and then they might go out hoping to find a queen to mate with but, if successful, they die. The first three weeks of the females' lives are spent inside the hive, cleaning, taking out the dead and looking after the queen; the next three weeks they forage for pollen and nectar and make honey from it. When foraging they fly at up to 22 mph; they navigate by the sun and magnetic fields so they cannot forage at night, and stay calmly in the hives, making it a good time to move the bees if this is necessary. As is well known, one bee can communicate the position of useful plants to another by performing a little dance. The bees have two stomachs, one in which they transport the nectar (they carry any pollen, to feed the young, in sacks on their back legs). They bring the nectar into the hive and feed it to another ('house') bee that digests it in the other stomach, mixing it with enzymes. Nectar is 80% water and honey 20%, so much has to evaporate. The constant temperature inside the hive of 36°C helps. Bees that are born at the end of the summer tend to survive for six months through the winter when they have very little to do. The honey is harvested by the keepers at the end of the summer, a wet August yielding a poor one. Some honey has to be left for the bees to eat in the winter, and beekeepers need to check occasionally that they have enough, and supplement it with sugar if

necessary. The Western or European honey bee, *apis mellifera*, is the only bee which can survive a winter. It has now spread, mostly by introduction, to all continents except Antarctica. Originally it is thought to have migrated from Africa.

A hive reproduces by splitting itself in half and swarming: the old queen will leave the hive with half the bees who will make a new queen to replace her once they have found a new home. To make a new queen they place about a dozen eggs, which are genetically the same as of any bee, into larger than normal wax cells and feed them on royal jelly; the richness of the enzymes in the latter causes their reproductive systems to kick in. No other bees can reproduce. When the dozen potential queens have developed they sting each other to death until one survives to become the new queen. When bees swarm, the beekeepers have just a few days to catch the swarms and take them back to hives. Before they swarm the bees stuff themselves with food in case they cannot find a new home quickly, which is why they are as docile as a human after a huge Sunday roast: the keepers only need to dump the swarm in front of a hive and, if the queen walks in the bees will all follow. Swarming usually takes place from May to June. It is quite a nuisance for beekeepers, so they check hives not only for disease but for queen cells and get rid of them to prevent swarming. The varroa mite, which has attacked honey bees in Britain in recent years, came from Eastern honey bees, but the good news is that this is now much less of a problem than two years ago.

Dr Dixon was warmly thanked by our chairman, Nicholas Hopkins, who said that this talk had encouraged more questions from the floor than he could remember at any Friends event. He also pointed out that Holland Park had had four hives on the roof of the arcade near the Orangery for the last three years. Last year honey had been harvested from them for the first time. It was available from Park Reception for a short while at the end of summer. Just as our chairman was closing Janice Miles walked into the Orangery on cue bearing her mouth-watering canapés.

Joy Puritz

It was one of those lovely autumn days: sunshine, blue skies, golden leaves, when a select few gathered with Dr Mark Spencer to see what fungi we could find in Holland Park. He made it clear that this was not an expedition to instruct in which were safe to eat; a little knowledge can be dangerous and he did not wish to be responsible for fatalities. The bad news was that a run of these same lovely days had left the soil dry and most of the fungal fruiting bodies tucked well underground. So while we searched, Dr Spencer kept us interested with a miscellany of fungal facts loosely connected to what we were seeing.



Fly Agaric

the earth the vulva splits, leaving a baggy remnant around the base, and fragments on the cap. This explains why our most recognisable mushroom, the Fly Agaric, has white spots on its scarlet cap.

It is very widespread and though often only 8 to 10 cm across in the UK, the photo which was taken by the author in New Zealand is of one the size of a dinner plate. It is not native there but is invasive and might be out-competing indigenous fungi. It is highly poisonous to humans though the Lapps traditionally use it as a hallucinogen – as do their reindeer.

It can be observed that other small animals nibble it, presumably without harm.

Features to look out for when attempting to identify fungi to genus include what it grows on, size and colour of different parts, whether the gills are attached to the stem or free, the spore colour and the texture of the stem if it divides into strings or crumbles like chalk. Surprisingly Dr Spencer was happy to taste small fragments of any specimen, saying it was safe to do so as long as the pieces were carefully spat out. The Amanitas, which include some of the most poisonous species (though others are safe and tasty), start life in a sort of birth sack called the vulva. As the mushroom breaks through



Giant Polypore

We did find some fungi. There were some small glistening ink caps deliquescing that would have produced hardly enough ink for a signature. There was a *Russula* (one of 108 British species) with its brittle gills. A number of this genus are edible but not very tasty, but their greatest advantage is that they are mycorrhizal, and form associations with specific trees that are beneficial to both. There was a wolf-fart puffball but no dog poo fungus, no chicken of the woods, no hedgehog fungus which is so delicious that it has to be protected by law. Most of what we found were on damp logs

Annual General Meeting



Wednesday, 28 March 2012, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

Our Annual General Meeting presents all of you with the chance to hear what your committee has been doing on your behalf in the previous year and to learn what it is doing in the current year. Equally it is your opportunity to tell us whether you are satisfied with what is being done in your name and of your particular concerns about the Park. The meeting will again be chaired by our distinguished president, Sir Angus Stirling.

All our AGMs are important, but this one will be especially so as it will include the election of new faces to several key roles in our organisation. During the year we have co-opted three members to be Treasurer, Art Exhibition Organiser and Projects Organiser respectively and they have been working hard, but need your formal approval to continue as trustees. We are also very much hoping to have found a new chairman by then, but nothing is yet fixed, so this is the time to think whether you or anyone you know could do the job. For details of what that would entail, please

contact Nicholas Hopkins. Whoever takes on the post will influence the style and direction of The Friends for some years to come. Do please come to the AGM to give your support to the new office holders.

Most of you will know that the AGM is held during our annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery and that after the meeting is a great time to view the exhibits and, we hope, alight on a piece you cannot live without. Wine will be served.

This is also the time to think about what you can do for The Friends over and above paying your annual subscription. Of course money is important for our work, but the lack of volunteers from within our membership has become very noticeable and is a real concern for the future strength and well-being of The Friends.

This announcement will be repeated in the spring newsletter when our financial report for 2011 will be included.

Fungi Foray (contd)

in the nature reserve and were bracket fungi (those which produce horizontal shelf- or bracket-shaped fruiting bodies). Some were perennial brackets which can live for 20 years while others were annuals. There was one small King Alfred's cake, a perennial bracket, with its silver and black concentric rings. Bigger specimens will catch fire easily from a spark, burn slowly and can be used to carry fire from one village to the next.

Our most spectacular find, kept to the last, was a giant polypore near the path junction north of Lord Holland's pond. This is an annual bracket which grows on living beech trees and can kill them. Our illustration shows one clump of it about a foot high but it ringed an entire beech stump and was no doubt the cause of the tree needing to be felled. Any of our readers walking that way will have noticed it.

Dr Spencer's skill kept us all entertained and instructed in spite of the paucity of specimens.

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Photo by Nicholas Hopkins

Holland House and terrace

Difficult Problems Solved

We are not much good around the garden but...

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We are delighted to announce that Holland House terrace is now open to the general public during the winter months when Opera Holland Park is not in residence. This is a triumph of patience and perseverance over many years. Having persuaded The Royal Borough to conserve what remains of the great house's facade – and it was done beautifully, as we have said before – the terrace is now being landscaped temporarily with planters and astroturf, and appropriately-designed benches donated by The Friends. At long last the focal point of the Park can be approached and enjoyed by all of us. A permanent landscaping scheme requires substantial investment; unsurprisingly it is not available at present.

The Families of Holland House

A new book is being published by The Friends: 'For over 300 years successive owners of Holland House in Kensington were at the heart of political, social and literary life in London until the house was bombed during the Second World War. The Cope and Rich families (the Earls of Holland and Warwick) were the owners from 1604 to 1721, and the Fox and Fox-Strangway families (Barons Holland and the Earls of Ilchester) from 1726 to 1951.

These influential and interesting figures of London society and beyond, and their guests, are the cast of Carrie Starren's painstakingly researched and fascinating account of the life and times of Holland House. Commissioned by The Friends of Holland Park, Carrie Starren, as a past Local Studies Librarian for The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and a lifelong resident of Kensington, is pre-eminently well qualified to write this definitive social history of Holland House.'

We hope to have this exciting new book, around 48 pages and in full colour, finished before Christmas and it would make an excellent present. At this point we cannot guarantee it, but as soon as it is available it will be posted on our website. Alternatively, phone or e-mail Rhoddy Wood. The retail price will be £5.95.

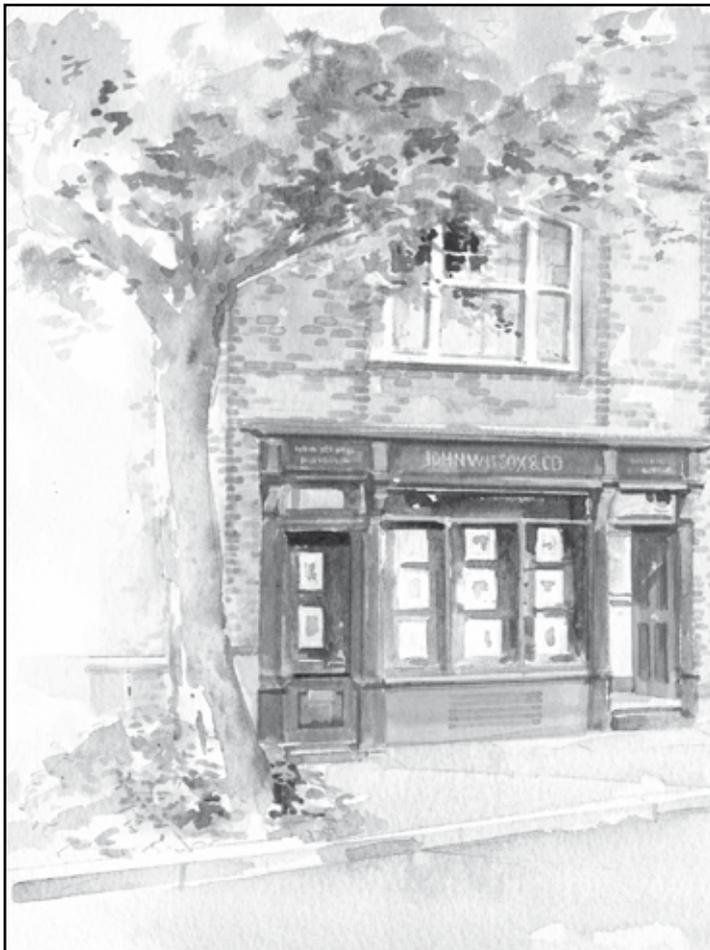
We are very grateful to all our members without whom there would be no Friends. It is your impressive numbers (nearly a thousand) that give us influence among the Councillors who make policy and ensure that we are at least listened to if not always agreed with. We hope you will all want to renew.

The Friends' subscription year is the calendar year, so now is the time to pay for 2012. Over half of you give us standing orders, payable on 1 January, and to these we say 'thank you', and you need do no more. To the others, please use the order form and make your cheques payable to The Friends of Holland Park. Minimum dues are £12 or £9 for seniors, those 65 or over. Joint members living at the same address pay £20 or £15 if both are

seniors. The only exception is that those who have joined since 1 September have their membership valid for 2012.

Well over half of you have also signed Gift Aid forms, which means that the Friends can reclaim 28p in the pound from HM Revenue and Customs: this adds up to over £1,000 a year. If you find a Gift Aid form with your newsletter, please sign and return it if you pay UK tax. If you do not pay tax and tell us, we will try to ensure we do not ask again. Thank you.

All queries about membership (e.g. 'Have I got a standing order?') to Rhoddy Wood on 020 7602 0304 or rhoddy.wood@virgin.net



John Wilcox & Co.

**About half
of Holland Park
is covered by
park, pavement &
public property.**

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HOLLAND PARK'S SPECIALIST AGENT
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Saturday, 31 March 2012, 7.30pm in the Orangery

Members will remember the exciting string music brought to us several times by Natalia Lomeiko, Yuri Zhislin and their friends. Now they have agreed to play for us again – what greater treat could we have on the last evening before the Art Exhibition closes. Details of their programme have not yet been worked out but will be in the next newsletter and, we are assured, will include pieces new to their Holland Park repertoire together with one old favourite.



Photo by Sasha Gusov
Natalia Lomeiko

Do put the date in your diary now. Tickets are £15 to include wine so that we can have a party at the end.

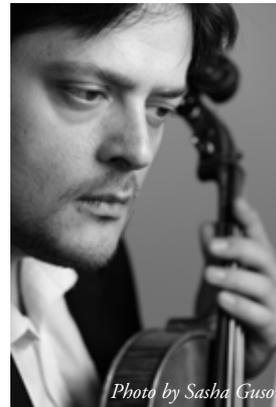


Photo by Sasha Gusov
Yuri Zhislin

Meanwhile, with Christmas coming up, how about buying their new Duo CD on NAXOS available in shops as well as online; and if anyone wishes a-signed-by-the-artists CD to be gifted to them

or their loved ones for £8.50 incl. postage and packing, contact by phone on 07951577257 or by writing to info@lomeikozhislinduo.com

Christmas Cards



East Wing, Holland House

Since the last newsletter came out, our publisher has found a number of old designs of Holland

Park hiding in a cupboard; so, after all, we are able to offer mixed packs of 10 large cards of park views which for £6 are great value and always sell well. Additionally we have the smaller cards of the east wing of Holland House (as seen from the youth hostel), and also of the stable yard, at £5.50 for a pack.

Large ones of the alcove are £7.50.

All designs benefit from a quantity discount



Stable Yard, Holland Park

of 5% on 100 cards, 10% on 200 and 15% on 300. Overprinting is available on request. The minimum order from us is 10 cards, and from Mountbatten 35. We deliver free if this newsletter arrived without a stamp; otherwise we have to charge £1.25 per pack. Mountbatten deliver free over rather more of London.



The Alcove, Holland Park

Many other London views were shown in the brochure sent to you in the last issue which can also be seen on www.mbcards.co.uk, or ask Rhoddy for a new copy. The Friends get an extra discount if you order through us, but if you order directly from Mountbatten, please remember to tick the box saying 'donate 25% of the net proceeds to the Friends of Holland Park'.



All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. Our bird/nature walks (BNW) will continue to take place on the first Saturday of each month (except August) under the direction of our knowledgeable and informative guide, Ian Thomson. Meet him at Lord Holland's statue at 9am. The walks are free and everyone is welcome, not just members, so please come and encourage your friends: they might become members too! We recommend you bring binoculars if you can – they make such a difference.

Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBK&C are listed as 'ES'; unless otherwise stated the meeting place is the Ecology Centre (Stable Yard). There is a charge for those marked £. It is advisable to ring the Centre on 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk to book, for details of any changes or for further events.

Sat 3 Dec	BNW	
Sun 4 Dec	Christmas concert: Tallis Chamber Choir	7.30pm
	In the Orangery, £17	
Sat 7 Jan	BNW	
Sat 7 Jan	Mulled Wine and Mince Pies (see p.3)	
Sat 28 Jan	ES. Winter Wildlife Area Open Day	12-4pm
Sat 4 Feb	BNW	
Wed 22 Feb	Rickshaws, Bridges and Teahouses (see p.3). In the Orangery, £12	7pm
Sat 3 Mar	BNW	
24 Mar – 1 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery. See pp.6-7	
Wed 28 Mar	FHP Annual General Meeting. In the Orangery	7.30pm
Sat 31 Mar	Russian Virtuosi concert. In the Orangery, £15	7.30pm
Sat 7 Apr	BNW	

Commonwealth Institute/Design Museum

The Design Museum, which has plans to occupy the old Commonwealth Institute building, has applied to vary some of the conditions of the original development planning consent. If permitted, the revised hours for the 120-seater restaurant would be until 11pm Mondays to Wednesdays and until 11.30pm Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Sundays' closing time would remain at 10pm.

In addition, the museum wishes to be allowed to hold corporate hospitality events in the gallery on up to 61 evenings a year; 48 up to 11pm, 12 up to

midnight and one up to 1am for numbers between 350 and 750, and 1000 on the night of the latest closing time.

Bearing in mind the need to service the restaurant and these late night events and that there is no on-site parking for guests, local residents might well have concerns about transport problems, parking, noise and possible anti-social behaviour late at night. If you wish to register your comments, you should contact the Executive Director, Planning and Borough Development at the Town Hall, quoting PP/03333, as soon as possible.



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