

A lush garden scene featuring a variety of trees and plants. In the foreground, several bright orange poppies are in full bloom, some with green buds. The middle ground shows a gravel path and a concrete retaining wall. Behind the wall, there are tall green trees, including a prominent yellow-green tree and a dark evergreen. The background is filled with more dense green foliage under a bright sky.

The Friends of Holland Park
Spring 2015

Your membership card is enclosed

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Wednesday, 22 April 2015, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

The year 2014 proved to be very busy for the trustees due, among other things, to the number of major developments impacting on the park; 2015 promises to be just as busy. The Conservation Area Proposal Statement for the Holland Conservation Area is due to be re-written as are the Borough Parks Strategy and the Holland Park Management Plan. Major developments are still with us. Trustees must monitor and have a view on all these subjects as well as working with key stakeholders in the Council and community.

Our AGM is an opportunity for members to hear what trustees have been concerned with over the last year, and to learn what is expected in the one ahead. Chaired by our distinguished president, Sir Angus Stirling, this annual occasion is your

chance to ask questions and to tell trustees of any particular concerns you have for the park and its management.

The formal business of the AGM does not take long, then we can expect the customary lively and enjoyable discussion. This interaction is appreciated by trustees, especially when there is so much happening in and around the park.

As usual, the AGM takes place during our annual art exhibition in the Orangery, and after the meeting is a great time to view the art exhibits over a glass or two of wine. Please do come and support your trustees, who work hard on your behalf.

Jennie Kettlewell

Buildings on the Holland House Site for Lease by the Opera

In a drive to increase the amount of time the front terrace of Holland House is open to the public each year, and to find a style of ancillary building that is more visually appropriate than the tents, The Friends have been in dialogue with RBK&C for well over a year.

We have now seen a preliminary set of designs for fully-reversible buildings which would reduce the footprint from that of the current tented city and, over time, would allow a possible five weeks' additional opening time for the terrace. If these benefits are to be achieved the buildings would need to be in place all year round, but they must be capable of being removed if, for example, the opera ceased to perform in Holland Park.

Buildings in place all year are not what we had envisaged, but we thought we should explore the option with RBK&C, without commitment, provided:

- **Views of the historic parts of Holland House are not obscured**
- **The front terrace of Holland House is entirely clear of ancillary buildings**
- **Access to the terrace is not blocked**
- **The terrace can be open to the public for longer than it is now**
- **The build time is reduced**
- **The design adds appropriately to the look of the site rather than detracting from it or overwhelming it**
- **There is full public consultation on the proposal before any decision is made to lodge a planning application for 2016 and beyond**

There is no plan to change the canopy, which will be removed after each opera season.

After our first sight of designs in December 2014 we felt we needed a much clearer picture of what park visitors would experience, how the designs would impact on views of Holland House, and the overall appearance of the site. Further helpful work has been done to design buildings of a reduced

size but, at the time of going to print with this newsletter, we have yet to be convinced that the benefits of this solution outweigh the downside.

No decision has been made. If and when we see designs that have the potential to work, full public consultation will allow our members, and others, to give an informed view on whether they want the new buildings or want to continue with the annual build of white tents.

It is our opinion that these buildings should clearly be designated as the park's buildings, to be leased by the opera during the summer months. This shift of emphasis means we should also consider whether or not the buildings can be of benefit to park users during the winter months.

The next step is to see further amendments to the designs. If we feel they are ready to go to public consultation that is what we will agree to, rather than make our own decision on the designs. We have asked the Council to allow enough time to get this right, but they are keen to go to consultation as soon as possible, before lodging a planning application for a number of years.

We will keep you updated on our website and on our park notice boards. Please keep checking so that you do not miss out on giving your view at the consultation. The process could start as early as the end of February or early March.



Holland House without the tented city



Holland House, East Wing

Youth Hostel

Safestay has secured a 50-year lease on the Holland Park hostel buildings and is undertaking a £2m refurbishment that involves a complete upgrading of the interior facilities in both the Grade-I-listed East Wing of Holland House and the modern Casson building. Bed numbers will increase to 380 through more efficient use of space. Two planning applications for interior works were lodged on 28 January, and a further application will be lodged for exterior re-cladding of the Casson building. No planning application has yet been registered for external conservation of the East Wing of Holland House. The 'boutique hostel' plans to open in late spring 2015. We will have more information in the summer newsletter.



The Design Museum building from Holland Walk

Design Museum

Work on the old Commonwealth Institute building and the site's residential development has proved more complex than expected, and the developers have been delayed in handing over the Grade-II-listed building to The Design Museum. The museum will carry out an interior reconfiguration and fit-out during 2015, and will open to the public in 2016.

Dukes Lodge development

The RBK&C Planning Applications Committee refused consent for the proposed plan, citing several reasons including 'excessive excavation' and 'loss of open space and trees'. The planned development would have been immediately adjacent to the north-east corner of Holland Park.

Managing traffic in the park

For a long time your trustees have been asking what can be done to reduce the number of cars and vans entering via Ilchester Gate and driving into the café yard or across the front of Holland House. Head of the Parks Police, Inspector Rumble, has a plan. A letter will be sent to each establishment in the park stating that deliveries must be made before 11 a.m., after which one half of the entry gate will be closed so that traffic cannot enter. Construction lorries will not be permitted entry after 9 a.m. If budgets allow, the intention is to install pop-up bollards at the entrance – a more efficient solution. A budget is now available to make the car-park gates at Abbotsbury Road automated, thereby reducing trespass after hours.



Sign at Ilchester Gate

Drainage in the park

The park's quirky drainage (porous gravel on the high ground and impervious London clay beneath) causes puddles where they are least expected. Park Management commissioned a SUDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems) report, and plan to channel excess water using natural means. It is even possible that the dried-up bourn that ran through the Wildlife Enclosure will see a trickle of water again. If only the water could be stored for use in dry summers.

North Lawn path

The lawn to the north of Holland House can get very muddy in winter, but it also gets concrete hard in summer. The less than inspiring York stone path has had its problems as the herbs planted between the stones could not cope with the terrain, and nor could the paving, which started to shift. The stones will be re-laid on a sound foundation with narrow gaps between. That should make it easier to walk on. Once this is done we might be able to soften the line with planting.



The North Lawn path

Your trustees have developed a 'Friends & Neighbours' programme for FHP members, offering a discount on purchases from businesses local to Holland Park: our Neighbours.

The purpose is to help build the community of interest around the park, to encourage new members to join the Friends and to give members an added incentive to renew their membership. The more members we have, the more influential we can be; and of course we want to give something back to you, our loyal members. The only cost to FHP is the relatively small expense of producing the membership card.

Each member of the Friends will have a membership card, marked with the relevant year and carrying a signature strip. The card will be valid from 1 March, to end February the following year. Members who have renewed for this year will find their card enclosed on a separate sheet in this newsletter. Joint members will receive one card each, and members who join during the year will have their card sent to them on joining.

Please sign your card on the back and show it when making purchases from participating neighbourhood businesses. No card, no discount.

Our participating Neighbours are:

- Gallery 19, Kensington Court Place (offer on framing)
- Gelato Mio, Holland Park Avenue
- Holland Park Café
- Hollands Wine Bar, Portland Road
- Jeroboams Fine Food & Wines, Holland Park Avenue
- Kensington Close Hotel Health Club & Spa, Wrights Lane
- Kensington Place Restaurant, Kensington Church Street
- Lipp, interior design and decoration, Holland Park Avenue
- Miles and Miles, car hire, Petersham Mews
- Rassells Plant Nursery, Earls Court Road
- Valentina Restaurant & Deli, Notting Hill Gate

More businesses might join the scheme once it is under way. You can find details of discounts and conditions on the insert in this newsletter and on the Friends website. Find your card now, sign it, and we hope you have great pleasure using it.

Friends Sponsor Ecology Walks and Talks



Ecology Centre

Frog in the park

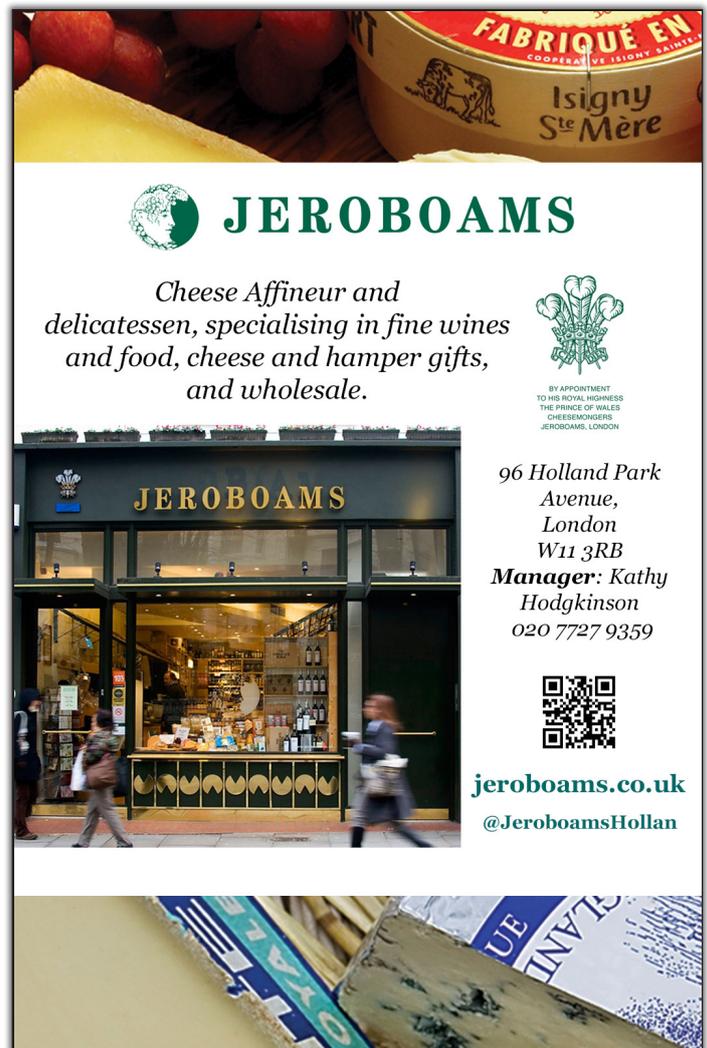
Once again we are sponsoring the programme of ecology walks and talks. See 'Dates for your Diary' at the end of the newsletter, and leaflets will soon be available from the Ecology Centre.

The next sponsored

event is at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 21 April when Alex Draper from Froglife will lead the Amphibian Walk and Talk. At 5 a.m. on Saturday, 25 April, expert ornithologist, Bill Haines, will guide us on the Dawn Chorus Walk. These events are free of charge to the public because they are sponsored by The Friends.

Please do not bring dogs with you to any ecology event since they might scare off the wildlife.

Book on 020 7938 8186 or ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk.



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Spring is almost here and The Friends of Holland Park Annual Art Exhibition will soon be installed in the Orangery: another splash of colour amongst the budding flowers of the park. Last year I wrote to the FHP artists asking for their feedback on the exhibition, and the response was fantastic. Some of the issues raised have been addressed in a letter I will be sending to the artists with their complimentary private view tickets shortly. Artists, please remember to send your completed **exhibit details forms** to me by **Thursday, 12 March**, and to specify if you would like tickets for the Friday night or Saturday morning private view; a reminder e-mail will be sent but if you cannot be contacted you will be allocated tickets for whichever event is available.

We are delighted that Killik & Co., the long-established investment and wealth advisors located at 281 Kensington High Street, are sponsoring the exhibition again this year. This sponsorship enables us to offer free catalogues to visitors, print more posters and get more publicity. There will once again be a credit card facility in the Orangery for the duration of the exhibition, and a raffle with prizes donated by generous local businesses.

This year's Feature Artist is the late Marika Eversfield who exhibited in every Friends art exhibition for 32 years until her death last year. Marika Eversfield was born in 1914 in Győr near Budapest. She studied at the art school in Vienna and

moved to London with her first husband after their marriage in 1935. They divorced four years later but Marika stayed in London working as a housemaid and a fire warden. This decision probably saved her life: Marika's mother and maternal grandparents all perished in Auschwitz. Marika married (and divorced again) and had her daughter Caroline. She worked at the Georgic Society, an organisation that provided training and employment for widowed refugee women, and started a business with a friend making leather belts, buckles and buttons, which supplied Fenwick's, amongst other fashion stores. Fashion changed in the '60s and the business closed; Marika did various jobs in antique shops and making patchwork quilts for Liberty. She took up painting and, in her mid-80s, gained recognition for her work and won the RBK&C art competition. She married the love of her life in the early 1980s and she and her husband bought a small house in Tuscany where they lived for a quarter of the year for the next 15 years until her husband died in 1994. She lived happily alone for the rest of her life, painting, and attending concerts. Marika died peacefully on 3 June 2014. She was 100 years old. All paintings by Marika Eversfield will be for sale, and the proceeds of this posthumous exhibition will go to a charity that was close to Marika's heart.

Gordon French

Art Exhibition Timetable

Thursday 12 March

Friday 17 April 8.30-11am

Friday 17 April 11am-6pm

Friday 17 April 7.30-9.30pm

Saturday 18 April 10.30am-12.30pm

Saturday 18 April

Sunday 19-Sunday 26 April

Sunday 26 April 6-7pm

Monday 27 April 9-11am

All exhibit details forms must be received by this date to allow listing in the catalogue

Artists deliver artwork to the Orangery, Holland Park

All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that the details shown are correct

Hanging and judging

Private View, entry by ticket at £3

Private View, entry by ticket at £3

For the two Private Views, artists are entitled to 5 complimentary tickets in toto.

Other members may buy up to 5 tickets in toto.

Exhibition open to the public 1-6pm. Free of charge.

Exhibition open to the public 10.30am-6pm. Free of charge.

Artists and buyers collect works

Artists and buyers collect works

Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6pm on SUNDAY 26 APRIL, as this would spoil the exhibition for others

Enquiries to Gordon French, 19 Kensington Court Place, London, W8 5BJ, Tel: 020 7937 7222, e-mail: gordon.l.french@gmail.com.

Holland Park Honey

If you have not yet tried the delicious honey produced by the park's bees, you will be glad to know that our beekeeper, Des O'Grady, is holding over stocks so that it will still be on sale in the spring – in the park office, as usual. He is partly doing this in order to benefit hay fever sufferers: there is a theory that if you are allergic to plants in your locality, it helps to eat honey produced in the same area, at least in part from the same plants.



Our busy bees

John Russell, now living in Hertfordshire, was born in 1934 at 4, Craven Cottages, Hoffland Road, W14. He had a brother who was five years older, and a sister who was nine years older. His grandfather, George John Russell, having been an 'exemplary' officer in the Police from 1898 to 1924, was now working as a gardener for Queen Victoria's daughter, Princess Louise, at Kensington Palace, where he lived in a flat above the stables and garages, next door to the Princess's chauffeur, Mr



Wisteria by the Orangery

Brooks. There is a family rumour that John's sister used to play there with Prince Philip sometimes. John dimly remembers on one occasion being driven with his grandparents by Mr Brooks in one of the Princess's open-top Rolls-Royces.

After the Princess died in December 1939 George Russell became a gardener for the Holland House Estate where once again he was accommodated in a flat above stables. John was evacuated for part of the war, but would occasionally come back to London with his siblings to visit their parents and grandparents. Sometimes they would stay with the grandparents for Christmas. Their flat was on the first floor up concrete steps from the stable yard. Half way up there was a window with no glass. At the top of the steps was a corridor with bedrooms on the left, the kitchen on the right, and the sitting room at the far end. George smoked a pipe and had a habit of putting a little honey and a piece of apple into his tobacco pouch to give the tobacco a special aroma; John always remembers the smell of that tobacco as he went up the concrete steps. Sometimes it was mixed with the smell of cabbage which his grandmother might be cooking on the huge wood-fired iron range. Another aroma which John strongly remembers was that

of the glorious wisteria growing on the south side of the arcade leading to the orangery, where it still flourishes each spring. He also remembers a huge mulberry tree growing not far from the stable yard. Somehow, he cannot remember how, he acquired some silk worms; he would feed them with the leaves of the mulberry: it was a project that he did for school.

George was very good at imitating farm animals, so the children called him 'Granddad Baa'. John thinks he might even have kept some chickens, and he thinks there were also peacocks in the grounds in those days. George used a cart and white horse, on which John and his brother would often sit, to drive around the estate collecting leaves and other rubbish to be taken away. There was an orchard where now the plant nursery is, full of peach, apple and pear trees, the fruit of which was much enjoyed by the family all through the war. In addition George was allowed to grow his own vegetables on a patch next to the lodge by Ilchester Gate. He also kept about seven beehives there for his own use (and in the war beekeepers got an extra sugar ration for feeding the bees in winter); beekeeping had been a passion of his since boyhood. Back in Dorset he had won the annual competition of a local beekeepers' association at the age of sixteen, and had thus been allowed membership, usually only for those over 21. John remembers that his grandfather never bothered with a protective suit; he only ever saw him with gloves and a hat and veil, occasionally crying out when he got stung. If he found a bee that looked unwell he would gently pick it up and put it under his hat: 'Ah, that'll keep him warm,' he would say. One of the rooms off the stable yard was where he centrifuged the honey out of the combs, right next door to the room where the park's present beekeeper does the same.

On the same night that Holland House was badly bombed in September 1940 an incendiary flew into the open window half way up the concrete steps to the grandparents' flat. John remembers the piece of step gouged out by the bomb, and the stain left by the heat on the concrete. George took John into the ruins of Holland House and up the staircase which was still in place under an open sky. On the first floor some wooden planks had been placed across the space that had been the floor; George dared his grandson to walk across them, which he did with some trepidation.

We are most grateful to John for sharing his memories of our park with us.



George Russell



John Russell



Statement of Accounts

The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2014

	£	<u>2013</u> £
Incoming resources:		
Donations	7,829	5,475
Activities in furtherance of objects:		
Subscriptions	10,652	11,331
Legacy	181	-
Advertising	4,730	4,005
Activities for generating funds:		
Events	16,643	11,332
Sale of merchandise	1,537	2,410
Interest	386	855
Total incoming resources	<u>41,958</u>	<u>35,408</u>
Resources expended:		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising direct costs	1,119	875
Event expenses	11,360	8,188
Cost of merchandise	499	624
	<u>12,978</u>	<u>9,687</u>
Charitable expenditure:		
Newsletter	8,923	8,643
Grants	16,245	18,478
	<u>25,168</u>	<u>27,121</u>
Governance costs	786	817
Total resources expended	<u>38,932</u>	<u>37,625</u>
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	3,026	(2,217)
Fund balances brought forward	99,238	101,455
Fund balances carried forward	<u>102,264</u>	<u>99,238</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2014

	£	£
Current assets:		
Debtors and prepayments	2,955	616
Deposit and current accounts	101,251	101,465
	<u>104,206</u>	<u>102,081</u>
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	1,942	2,843
Net assets	<u>102,264</u>	<u>99,238</u>



Punica granatum flower



Punica granatum bush



Punica granatum fruit

You do not often see the *Punica granatum* 'nana' (dwarf pomegranate) bush in England, but we have several in the Mediterranean bed along the north wall of the Dutch Garden. Although only semi-hardy, the microclimate there suits it.

It is naturally a bushy shrub and dense enough to obscure the internal structure through the mid-green, lance-shaped leaves. The really exotic sight is the waxy, bell-shaped flowers in a vibrant orange red which appear in late autumn.

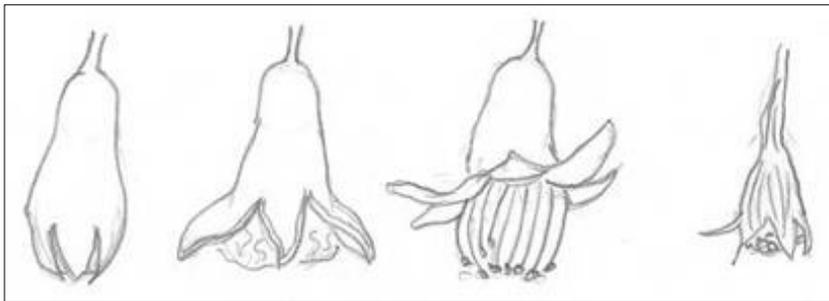
Apparently the children who know the plant through the Ecology Centre visits call them 'red noses'.

The leathery greeny-brown spherical fruit is something you would recognise from the pomegranates in your supermarket. It looks

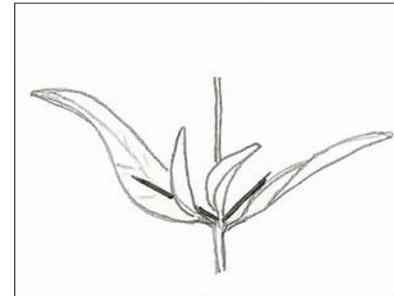
a bit like a grenade, or so I am told, and interestingly the word 'grenade' is from the French word for a pomegranate: *grenade*. The fruit on this dwarf variety measures only four centimetres. I have seen one fruit on the Holland Park bushes but it had gone the next day as someone must have found it too tempting, in spite of the wickedly-sharp spines. A shame, as others might have enjoyed seeing it.

From the Near East to Pakistan, pomegranate seeds, juice and molasses are much used for culinary purposes. Extracts have also had their uses in traditional medicine.

Do go and discover the pomegranate plants in Holland Park. We are fortunate to have them.



The bottom of the flower opens to reveal crumpled petals



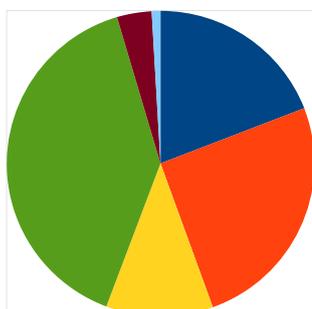
Wickedly-sharp spines

Text and illustrations: Jennie Kettlewell

Statement of Accounts (*contd*)

INCOME

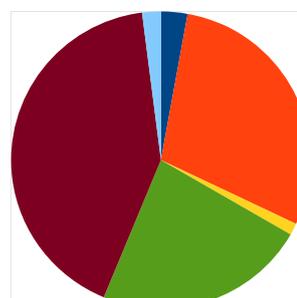
Donations & Legacy	8,010
Subscriptions	10,652
Advertising	4,730
Events	16,643
Sales	1,537
Interest	386



- Donations & Legacy
- Subscriptions
- Advertising
- Events
- Sales
- Interest

EXPENDITURE

Fundraising	1,119
Events	11,360
Merchandise	499
Newsletter	8,923
Grants	16,245
Governance	786



- Fundraising
- Events
- Merchandise
- Newsletter
- Grants
- Governance



Bill Haines

Female firecrest

Experienced professional ornithologist, Bill Haines, regularly monitors birds in Holland Park. He has a permit to ring birds and sets up his mist nets in the Wildlife Enclosure then waits to see what arrives.

He told us of two pleasant surprises: two firecrests, one male and one female, were captured on 21 November last year, supporting the view that Holland Park is a regular wintering site for this

species. This is even more special than the goldcrest (Britain's smallest bird), of which Bill netted 14 in the park during 2014.

I am not sure who was more surprised, Bill or the bird, when a sparrowhawk swooped low on a food hunt and ended up in the mist net. If the photo is less clear than usual it is because Bill says he took it on his iPhone while trying not to lose his fingers.



Bill Haines

Female sparrowhawk

Jennie Kettlewell

Subscription Reminder and Standing Orders

We are very grateful to all our members without whom there would be no Friends. It is your impressive numbers (nearly a thousand) which 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, except for new members who have joined since 1 September 2014, all

subscriptions for 2015 were due on 1 January. About 600 of you have paid by standing order, and 100 others have paid with cash or cheques. Thank you all very much.

Those who have not yet paid will find their order forms are green, and they will also not have a membership card. Rhoddy can tell you individually if you contact her on 020 7602 0304 or at rhoddy.wood@virgin.net.

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While cash or cheques are always welcome, our treasurer would be especially grateful if you would sign a standing order form to your bank. This is because we handle hundreds of cheques a year which is a considerable administrative burden. It would also help our members as you would no longer need to remember each year.

Please use the order form if it is green, and you will find a standing-order form on the reverse. 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.

Norland Conservation Society Annual Lecture

Wednesday, 24 March 2015 at 7.30pm
St James Norlands Church, St James's Gardens, W11
The lecture will be given by Howard Spencer, a historian with English Heritage, and will be on the subject of London's blue plaques. While being a general talk covering the whole of London, it will also focus on those in the Norland area, which range from a Chinese poet in St James's Gardens to a music-hall comedian in St Ann's Villas. Tickets at £8, to include wine and soft drinks, are available from Rosemary Bauccio, 20 St Ann's Villas, London W11 4RS. Please make your cheque payable to 'Norland Conservation Society' and enclose a stamped, addressed envelope.

Pimm's in the Park

Tuesday, 14 July, 6-8pm in the Orangery

This summer our Pimm's party will be held in the Orangery. As you know, we are usually offered the youth hostel garden, but new ownership and consequent building works do not allow us the opportunity this year. We have, as an exception for The Friends, also been allowed use of the lawn outside the Orangery because we have booked through RBK&C under their licence and not as part of The Friends' own licence for events in the building. We will have a wonderful view of the gardens and the Ice House, but we must set a good example by keeping the party to the allotted space as we sip our Pimm's and nibble on delicious canapés.

This is our one event of the year which is only open to Friends and their immediate guests. The trustees will, as always, be inviting one or two special guests as a thank-you for their cooperation with The Friends in our endeavours to make the park a pleasant place for all to enjoy.

Your tickets, at £17 each, can be booked on the enclosed order form which can also be downloaded from our website.

Joyce Johnston, Artist, 1921-2015



Joyce Johnston was a talented artist who until 2011 was a regular exhibitor at The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition.

Born in 1921 in the north of England she was called up to be in the Forces during the Second World War. She became a member of various art societies and groups including the Fulham Art Society, the Armed Forces Art Society and the London Landscape Group. The latter used to visit Kew Gardens every Saturday to paint. Joyce started her career painting in oils. Later she also became proficient in watercolour, pen and ink, and crayon. Her watercolours are particularly attractive. Joyce exhibited and sold paintings and drawings throughout her life. She was an occasional exhibitor at Mall Galleries and also, in the summer, in the open air in Royal Avenue Chelsea and other London open-air markets.



Pen-and-ink drawing of Holland House, from Joyce's sketchbook

Joyce moved in late 2014 from her flat in Pembroke Road to a residential care home in Fulham. Sadly she died there on 31 January. She had very graciously indicated that she wished her art works to be sold to raise funds for her church, St Mary Abbots. This sale will take place in the Long Room at the St Mary Abbots Centre, Vicarage Gate, on Saturday, 28 February, 11am-3pm.

Barbara Hensman

We're ready when you are.



Sales: 020 7727 5111

Lettings: 020 7727 5222

14 Portland Road, W11 4LA
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We were delighted to welcome the Tallis Chamber Choir and their director, Philip Simms, on 7 December, their fifteenth time, and we were not disappointed

There seems to be no waning in Philip Simms' programming skill and, although last year's programme was less international than usual, this year's was even more domestic, with only one work by a non-British composer, the Venetian Giovanni Gabrieli (1554/7-1612).

We started with his *Beata es Virgo*, one of the *Sacrae Symphoniae* of 1597, a polyphonic motet in which the music is developed by successive choral entries. This was followed by a piece, originally for four voices, by William Byrd (1540-1623), a contemporary of Gabrieli, *This day Christ was born* (*Hodie Christus natus est*), from the *Psalmes, songs and sonnets* of 1611/12, composed in madrigalian style, with angelic voices intertwining. Next was *I sing of a Maiden*, a Middle-English poem of the 15th century, set to music by Patrick Hadley (1899-1973), who taught composition at the Royal College of Music and later became Professor of Music at Cambridge, originally written for a two-part boys' choir, and showing the influence of Delius. This was followed by *There is no rose of such virtue* (a modern version of *There is no rose of swych vertu*, dating from about 1420, which compares the Virgin Mary to a rose) in a (possibly 18th-century) anonymous setting for male voices. Then we had *The shepherds' cradle song*, the text being translated from the German *Des Hirten Wiegenlied* of Karl Leuner (1817), with a simple lyrical setting in traditional style by Charles Macpherson (1870-1927), a chorister at St Paul's Cathedral, who became professor of composition at the Royal Academy of Music. We finished the first half with *Blessed be that Maid Marie*, the text of which dates from the mid-1550s or earlier, in a setting by the young Welsh composer and singer, Gareth

Treseder, composed in 2012 in a jolly folk style.

After a short interval we began with *The Christmas truce*, a poem by Frederick Niven (1879-1944), partly read and partly sung, the music having been composed by Graham Fitkin (born 1963) in 2011 for the Truro Cathedral Choir in post-minimalist style (i.e. tonal in effect, but without traditional functional tonality) and the reading being done by our own Joy Puritz. There followed *The boar's head carol*, dating from mediaeval times, describing the ancient tradition of sacrificing a boar and presenting its head at a Yuletide feast, in a mixture of Latin and English, sung to a traditional English setting. After that we had *Pastime with good company*, described as a traditional English carol, but reputedly composed by King Henry VIII in about 1518, possibly for Catharine of Aragon, with an early Renaissance melody. We finished with *The Bethlehem star* by Bob Chilcott (born 1955), a setting of a poem by Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844-99), composed in memory of Alan Greaves, the church organist from Sheffield, who was fatally attacked as he walked to church for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve 2012; the setting has a simple melody, but a beautiful and very sad feeling.

The carols were interspersed with amusing readings mainly by members of the choir, but the *pièce de résistance* was a reading by Joy Puritz of letters from a young woman to her boyfriend, composed by John Julius Norwich, describing the effect of the literal implementation of The Twelve Days of Christmas. Also, at appropriate places the audience sang four well known carols.

Afterwards Janice Miles produced a delicious spread of canapés, and the wine flowed. The audience returned home replete and uplifted. We can hardly wait for the choir's visit this year.

George Law

Russian Virtuosi of Europe Concert

Saturday, 18 April, 7.30pm in the Orangery Holland Park



Natalia Lomeiko

Our two favourite musicians, Natalia Lomeiko (violin) and Yuri Zhislin (violin/viola), are coming again to delight us. They will be playing Mozart's *Duo No. 2 for violin and viola*, Tchaikovsky's *Children's Album*, arranged by L. Chistiakov for two violins, and Bartok's *Duos for two violins*.

Surely a bargain for listening to two professors perform, tickets are only £15, to include wine and nibbles. We are sure that those who have not yet booked will be eager to do so. Please use the enclosed order form which you can also download from the website.

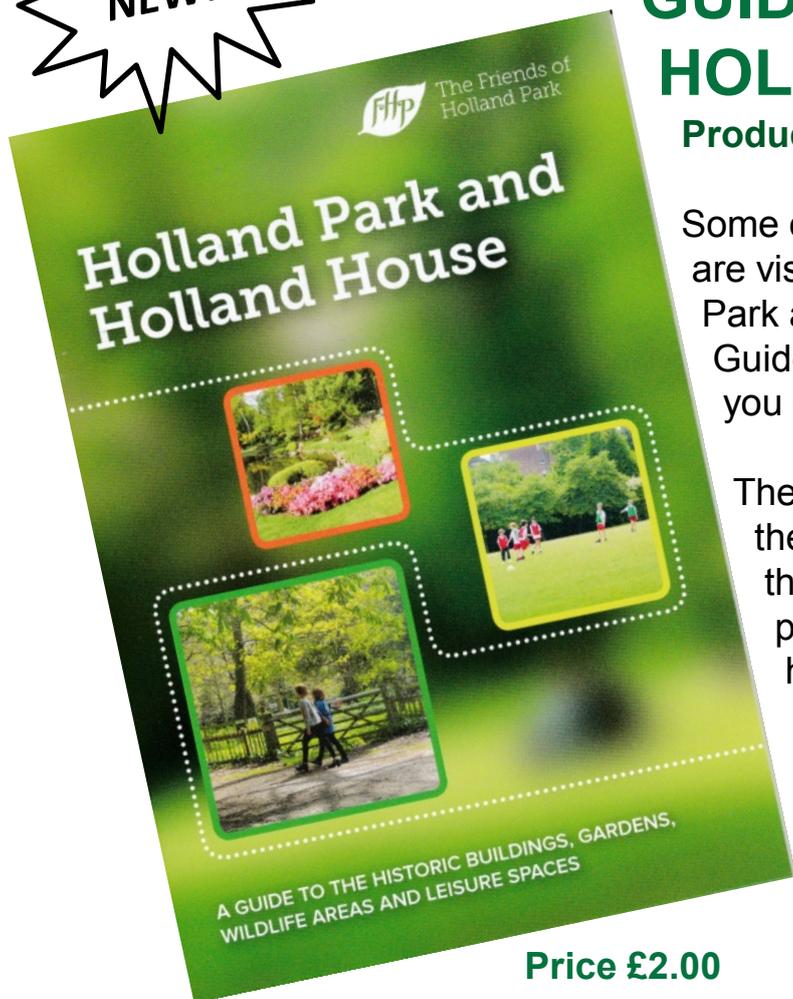


Yuri Zhislin



GUIDE TO HOLLAND PARK

Produced by The Friends of Holland Park



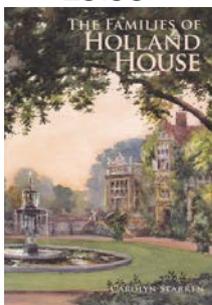
Some of you know the Park well and some are visitors wanting to know what 's in the Park and where to find it. We hope this Guide will be interesting for all and that you enjoy reading it and find it useful.

The Guide describes the various areas of the Park: the sports and other facilities, the work of the Ecology team, and the park services. It also gives a brief history of Holland House and the people who lived in it. A map in the centre shows you how to find your way around. Even if you do know the Park well, you might discover things you did not know.

Price £2.00

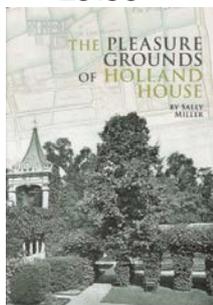
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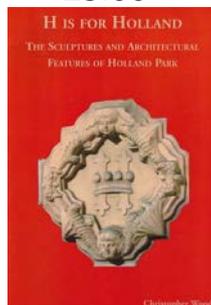
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*The cover photo was taken
by your editor in 2013,
between the Iris and Dutch Gardens*

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

Opera Holland Park

Although The Friends of Holland Park is a quite separate organisation from Opera Holland Park Friends, we are happy to carry the announcement of their upcoming productions for this summer:

Il trittico (*Il tabarro, Suor Angelica, Gianni Schicchi*) by Puccini

June 2, 5, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 **7pm**

Flight by Jonathan Dove June 6, 10, 12, 17, 19 **7.30pm**

Aida by Verdi June 24, 26, July 1, 4, 8, 10, 16, 19 (matinée **2pm**), 21, 24 **7.30pm**

Lakmé by Delibes July 9, 11, 15, 18, 23, 27 (The Christine Collins Young Artists performance), 29, 31 **7.30pm**

L'amore dei tre re by Montemezzi July 22, 25, 28, 30, August 1 **8pm**

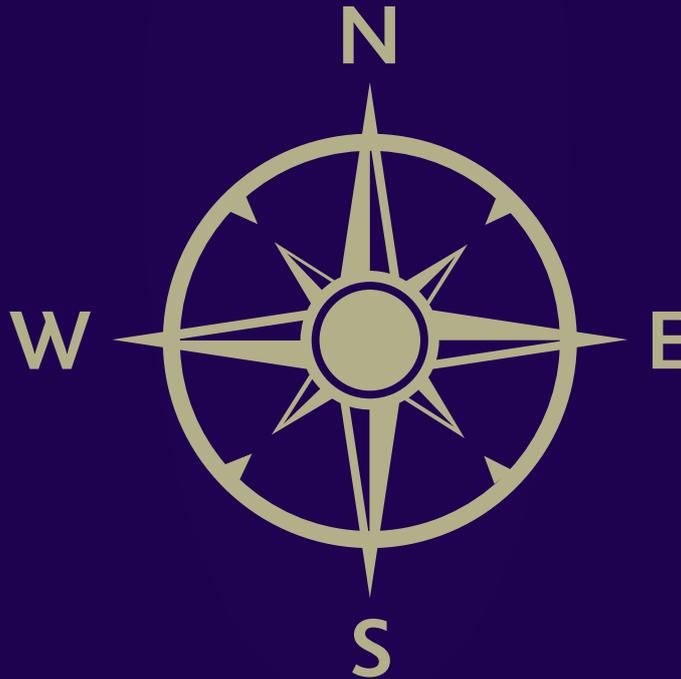
All FHP events in the diary are printed in **bold**. The Friends' Bird and Nature Walks (BNW) are continuing to be led by varying regulars while we look for a new permanent leader with the requisite skills and commitment. We will have strolls through the park looking at birds, plants, butterflies and park management of current interest. There is no charge and all are welcome without booking. Meet outside the café at 9am on the first Saturday of each month. No dogs, please, as even well behaved ones on leads disturb the wildlife. We recommend you bring binoculars if you can.

Events organised by the Ecology Service of RBK&C are listed as 'ES', some of which are sponsored by FHP where indicated. Unless otherwise stated the meeting place is in the new Ecology Centre near the Adventure Playground. Some must be booked, in which case please call 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk. There is a charge for those marked £.

Taskforce for Nature sessions take place every third Saturday of the month from 10.30am to 3pm (except in December when it is the second Saturday); meet outside the café. This is your chance to make new friends while getting healthy outdoor exercise: digging, chopping and planting in the wilder parts of the park. Tools, tea and instruction provided. Further information from Daniel Brittle on 020 8762 0353 or 07702942141, e-mail: daniel.brittle@groundwork.org.uk or visit www.groundwork.org.uk/london

Tues 24 Feb	STOP PRESS The Design Museum , talk by Deyan Sudjic, in the Orangery, £12	7pm
Sat 7 Mar	BNW	
Sat 21 Mar	ES. Seeds of Spring: Ecology Centre Open Day. Drop-in	12 noon-4pm
Sat 4 Apr	BNW	
Tues 7- Fri 17 Apr	ES. Spring children's holiday activities. Must book. £	
Fri 17 Apr	ES. Children's Night Safari. Must book. £	7-9pm
Sat 18 - Sun 26 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition , in the Orangery	
Sat 18 Apr	Russian Virtuosi of Europe concert , in the Orangery, £15	7.30pm
Tues 21 Apr	ES. Amphibian walk and talk (sponsored). Must book	7.30-9.30pm
Wed 22 Apr	Annual General Meeting , in the Orangery	7.30pm
Sat 25 Apr	ES. Dawn chorus bird walk (sponsored). Car park. Must book	5am
Sat 2 May	BNW	
Wed 13 May	ES. Bat walk (sponsored). Bring a torch. Must book	8.30pm
Thurs 21 May	ES. Urban botany walk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Tues 26 - Fri 29 May	ES. Half-term children's holiday activities. Must book. £	
Sat 6 June	BNW	
Sat 6 June	ES. Amphibian Antics. Wildlife Area Open Day. Drop-in	2-6pm
Thurs 11 June	ES. Flora and Folklore (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 13- Sun 14 June	Open Garden Squares Weekend (www.opensquares.org)	
Sat 20 June	ES. Butterfly and moth morning (sponsored). Must book	10am-12 noon
Wed 24 June	ES. Plants and pollinators walk (sponsored). Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 27 June	Summer tree walk . Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in stable yard	11am-1pm
Sat 4 July	BNW	
Wed 8 July	ES. Parakeet walk and talk (sponsored). Must book	7-8.30pm
Sat 11 July	ES. Bumblebee walk and talk (sponsored). Must book	2.30-4.30pm
Tues 14 July	Pimm's in the Park , in the Orangery, £17	6-8pm
Wed 15 July	ES. Summer tree walk: the basics. Must book	6.30-8pm
Sat 18 July	ES. Busy Bees: Ecology Centre Open Day. Drop-in	2-6pm

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