



The Friends of Holland Park
Spring 2013



Your Committee

President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman position vacant

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Treasurer Carron Batt

Publicity Nigel Brockmann

Editor & Minutes Secretary Joy Puritz

Talks Organiser Andy Walker

Art Exhibition Organiser Gordon French

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Projects Organiser Jennie Kettlewell

Kathleen Hall

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

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The annual subscription to the Friends of Holland Park runs from 1 January to 31 December except that new members joining after 1 September in any year are deemed to have paid for the next year. Most members sensibly paid by standing order on 1 January so they do not have to remember, and a good number of others have already paid by cheque. Our sincere thanks to all these. However, if, and only if, the order form that came with this newsletter is green, it means that at the time of writing (end of January) we had not yet received your payment. Please make it now to save us having to remind you individually. If anyone has not set up a standing order and would like to do so, you will find a form on the back of the green sheet. Minimum subscriptions for individuals are standard £12 or £9 for the over 65s. Two members, living at the same address, may take out a joint membership for £20, or £15 when both are seniors. Please make your cheques payable to 'The Friends of Holland Park' and post to Rhoddy Wood, 21 Kenton Court, 356 Kensington High Street, W14 8NN. Thank you.

The cover photo was taken in the Dutch Garden by Joan Bovarnick on 11 May 2012.



Annual General Meeting



Wednesday, 20 March 2013, at 7.30pm in the Orangery

There is nothing in the rule book saying AGMs have to be dry, dusty events, and ours are certainly not. Although they have a formal structure, they are always interesting and amusing, and even the most ardent readers of the newsletter will learn something new and topical about our lovely park.

Chaired by our distinguished president, Sir Angus Stirling, this yearly occasion gives members the chance to hear what your trustees have been doing in the last year and to learn what can be expected in the current year. Most importantly, it is also your opportunity to tell them of any particular concerns you have for the park and its management.

As you will read below, our recently co-opted chairman has had to stand down, and as we go to press we are without a candidate to propose to the meeting for election. If you know of anyone you feel might be willing and able to take on this crucial role, please suggest them to our secretary, Mrs Rhoddy Wood. Of course, if you yourself would be interested, please talk to her about what is involved in the position of chairman to The Friends.

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

Chairman of The Friends

We are sorry to report that Stewart Katz, has had to relinquish the role of chairman of The Friends due to an increased workload from his own business. This has been entirely unforeseen, although he has always been clear that his clients must come first and feels he must now focus on this unanticipated additional client work. We thank Stewart for taking on the role of chairman with all good intention, and both parties are sad that it has not worked out.

We are now back to seeking a chairman for The Friends.

Norland Conservation Society Annual Lecture

Tuesday, 19 March at 7.45pm,
St James Norlands Church,
St James's Gardens, W11

This year's lecture will be given by Major General Michael Scott, a long-term resident of Norland, who will talk about his recently-published book, *Scapegoats: Thirteen Victims of Military Injustice*. History is full of tales of men at war who have been wrongly castigated in the rush to find a scapegoat for alleged errors of judgment, sometimes exonerated but only later. This book exposes the real stories behind the myths. Tickets are available, price £8 (including refreshments) from Veronica Scott, 24 Addison Avenue, W11 4QR, tel. 020 7603 7680. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope and make your cheque payable to 'Norland Conservation Society'. Michael will be available to sign copies of his book after the lecture.

Bequest to the FHP

We have received a legacy of £25,000 from the estate of Anthony James Longworth. This is the largest gift we have ever received and we wish we had known about it in time to thank the donor.



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Clay mushrooms

Matthew Rose and I are the two education officers at Holland Park Ecology Centre. It is a varied and rewarding job teaching local

children about nature. If you are a regular visitor to the park during term time we have probably passed you leading a group of excited school children to do hands-on exploring in our wildlife area.

During school holidays our focus shifts to running a full and fun-packed programme of two-hour workshops for children between the ages of 5 and 10. We have also introduced four-hour sessions for older children in the Easter and summer holidays. These run nearly every weekday throughout all the state-school holidays except Christmas when we have a well earned rest. The workshops always have an environmental theme and, in the autumn half term, ranged from the perennially popular shelter building through to hunting for mini-beasts and looking for signs of autumn out and about in the park.



Tree troll

This year our children's fungi foray was particularly successful thanks to the very wet autumn weather. The group managed to spot and identify over 15 different types, puffballs and jelly ears being particular favourites. Clay mushrooms were then made by the children as souvenirs. In another session we challenged the children

to make a tree troll. Everyone carefully chose a small log which later would be turned into their fantastical creature. After explaining the real wildlife we might encounter in the woods and the likelihood of meeting a real troll we set off on our adventure in the park. Armed with rucksacks for collecting, the children were given the task of finding suitable natural material to make their trolls. As we journeyed through the park, eagle-eyed children gathered special objects like berries, twigs and a kaleidoscope of autumn leaves for their craft creations.

Our nature trek took us through the woods and some of the other enclosures in the park. Near the walking man statue some of the group found gems like delicate leaf skeletons and precious peacock feathers. Thankfully (or perhaps not) no real trolls or gruffalos were spotted.



Tree yacht

The next stage of the session was creation. The children spread their finds out on their tables and started making their characters. Juicy holly berries were stuck on – to become beady eyes or shiny noses; sticks were now limbs, and large red leaves became cloaks. Headdresses were made from feathers carefully glued together. Within

about 20 minutes a whole tribe of trolls emerged, and the children had great fun naming them and describing their trolls' special powers and personalities. One enterprising boy turned his log into a galleon with red billowing sails for the trolls to set sail in.

Sadly time was soon up and after a photo call the trolls, with their proud new owners, departed. 'Time for a cup of tea,' declared Matthew, and after that we tidied away, ready for the next session.

I hope this gives you a flavour of the holiday activities we run. Over the years we have made all sorts of crafts, from paper-bag owls to journey sticks, and carried out lots of



Tree troll

pond-dipping and mini-beast hunting sessions. Our sessions have proved very popular and we have a growing band of regulars. We hope all who attend, including the parents, enjoy themselves and learn about the wildlife that calls Holland Park its home.

*Trevor Bowyer
Forest School Officer,
Holland Park Ecology
Centre*

Details of upcoming events including our holiday activities can be found at www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology, tel. 020 7938 8186

The preparations for this year's art exhibition are coming along extremely well and we are looking forward to an excellent show. As you are aware, this year we are featuring an artist within the exhibition: the late Sir Hugh Casson, our past president and the architect responsible for the youth hostel and the restoration of part of Holland House after it was bombed during the war.

Casson was born and lived in London for most of his life as a practising architect. He had a long and illustrious career in the arts including President of the Royal Academy of Arts from 1976-84. The Friends of Holland Park have obtained the full cooperation of the Casson family and the Royal Academy of Arts who are holding an exhibition of Casson's work in May. Our tribute will focus on Casson's work in Holland Park – on Holland House and the hostel – as well as a selection of his drawings of Holland Park and Kensington.

This year we are getting greater exposure and publicity for the exhibition, and the support we are receiving from local publications and the press is most encouraging. In addition to this more posters are being printed and distributed throughout the borough. As you are aware, the catalogue this year is free and, as promised, a credit card facility will be in the the Orangery during the exhibition which should increase sales. We are also expecting to raise more money for The Friends with a raffle, the winners of which will receive wonderful prizes donated by local businesses. We hope you will support The Friends of Holland Park by visiting our exhibition, and look forward to seeing you there.

Art Exhibition Timetable

Fri 15 March, 8-11am

Artists deliver work to the Orangery, Holland Park.

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

Fri 15 March, 11am-6pm

Works will be hung/displayed and judged.

Fri 15 March, 7.30pm

Private View and awarding of prizes, entry by ticket at £3. *Five free tickets for each artist.*

The exhibition is open to the public, free of charge, from Saturday, 16 March to Sunday, 24 March, 10.30am-6pm.

Artists and buyers collect their works after the exhibition on

Sunday, 24 March, 6-7.30pm and Monday, 25 March, 9-11am.

No works can be collected before 6pm on Sunday, 24 March as this would spoil the exhibition for others.

Enquiries to Gordon French on 020 7937 7222 or e-mail: gordon.l.french@gmail.com

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Statement of Accounts

The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2012

	£	<u>2011</u> £
Incoming resources:		
Donations	29,237	5,016
Activities in furtherance of objects:		
Subscriptions	11,437	11,253
Advertising	2,740	2,678
Activities for generating funds:		
Events	10,148	10,528
Sale of merchandise	1,128	1,291
Interest	1,326	1,206
Total incoming resources	56,016	31,972
Resources expended:		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising direct costs	929	1,457
Event expenses	7,288	7,206
Cost of merchandise	499	892
	8,716	9,555
Charitable expenditure:		
Newsletter	5,983	6,062
Grants	7,004	20,911
	12,987	26,973
Governance costs	354	605
Extraordinary item	1,962	-
Total resources expended	24,019	37,133
Net incoming/(outgoing) resources	31,997	(5,161)
Fund balances brought forward	69,458	74,619
Fund balances carried forward	101,455	69,458

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2012

	£	£
Current assets:		
Debtors and prepayments	518	2,443
Deposit and current accounts	104,482	69,973
	105,000	72,416
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	3,545	2,958
Net assets	101,455	69,458

These accounts have been approved by the Trustees but have not yet been independently examined.

Russian Virtuosi Concert

Saturday, 23 March at 7.30pm,
in the Orangery
(during the Art Exhibition)

Our talented Friends, Natalia Lomeiko, Violin, and Yuri Zhislin, Violin and Viola, both Professors at the Royal Academy of Music, will once again perform for us. They have played in every major venue in this country, and Yuri claims to have performed in 60 different countries. No one who has heard them will forget their combination of energy, discipline and passion. This time they are again bringing with them the cellist Richard Harwood whom *The Strad* hailed as 'probably the greatest young cello talent since Jacqueline du Pré'. He has just returned from playing for the Sultan of Muscat where he performed, as always, on his instrument of 1692 by Francesco Rugeri. They will play for us Beethoven's String Trio in G, Op.9 No.1 and Ysaye's Sonata for two violins. Yuri and Natalia have just recorded this and will bring some copies for sale, if already available.

After the concert the audience will have a chance to talk to the artists over wine and crisps.

Please order your tickets now at £15 on the order form (also downloadable from our website).

Pimm's in the Park

Wednesday, 10 July, 6-8pm
in the youth hostel garden

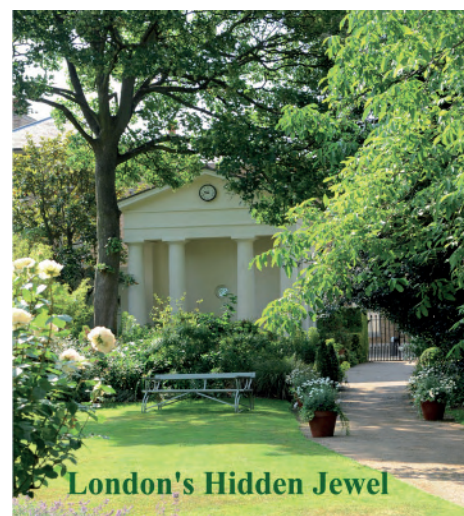
Once again we have to thank Sally Martyn-Johns, manager of the youth hostel in the park, for allowing us to hold our popular annual summer party in the hostel garden which is not normally open to the public. We have again chosen an evening on which there is no opera performance to compete with and, after our two last Pimm's parties – rather soggy but still much enjoyed – we are firmly hoping for a sunny evening. This is our one event of the year which is only open to Friends and their immediate guests. We also like to invite a few special guests to thank them for their work in making the park such a pleasure to be in.

Please book your tickets, at £12 each, to include Pimm's and light refreshments, on the enclosed order form (also downloadable from our website).

London's Hidden Jewel



For over two centuries, Holland House, with its extensive grounds, was the most important property on what is now Kensington High Street. Then, in 1812, Edwardes Square



strang up, totally spoiling Lord Holland's view. *London's Hidden Jewel* delves into the history of the ensuing 200 years. Beautifully illustrated, the book tells the fascinating stories, many previously untold, about the building of the houses of Edwardes Square and Earls Terrace, the many famous people who lived there and their associates, including Lewis Carroll, J.M. Barrie, G.K. Chesterton, Pietro Annigoni and Frankie Howerd.

At the heart of the Square is the glorious garden, one of the most beautiful in London.

Visit it on Sunday 19 May, 12.30–5pm as part of the National Gardens Scheme, or on Sunday 9 June, 10am–5pm on the Open Garden Squares Weekend (see p.10).

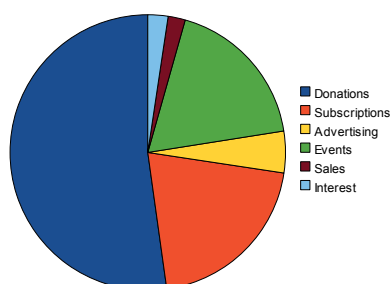
London's Hidden Jewel is now available, priced £25, at Daunt Books, Holland Park Avenue and Waterstones, Kensington High Street, or through Carrie Thomas – email: thebook@thehistoryofedwardessquare.com. The Edwardes Square Garden Committee is donating its profit from sales of this book to local charities.

The Edwardes Square Scarsdale and Abingdon Association are kindly advertising the Friends of Holland Park's two recent publications in their newsletter.

Statement of Accounts (contd)

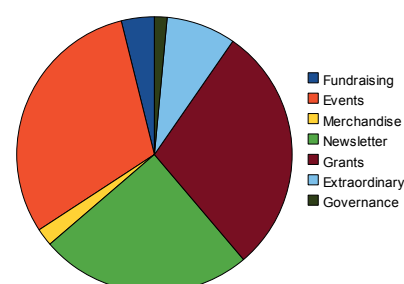
Donations	29237
Subscriptions	11437
Advertising	2740
Events	10148
Sales	1128
Interest	1326

INCOME



Fundraising	929
Events	7288
Merchandise	499
Newsletter	5983
Grants	7004
Extraordinary	1962
Governance	354

EXPENDITURE





Cut

You might have noticed changes in the Holland Park 'hedge with two faces' that runs along the eastern perimeter of the playing field. Planted in 2007 as a staggered double row, the row nearer the playing field is our native *Craetagus monogyna* (hawthorn) while the other is a random mix of native

hedgerow species, giving an informal countryside effect. The plan was that both faces would provide a prime habitat for birds, insects and small mammals, while the hawthorn face would be relatively easy to trim and maintain neatly.

Over its six-year life the hedge has grown and thrived until it began to look straggly and unkempt, the solution being a traditional form of hedge management: hedge laying.



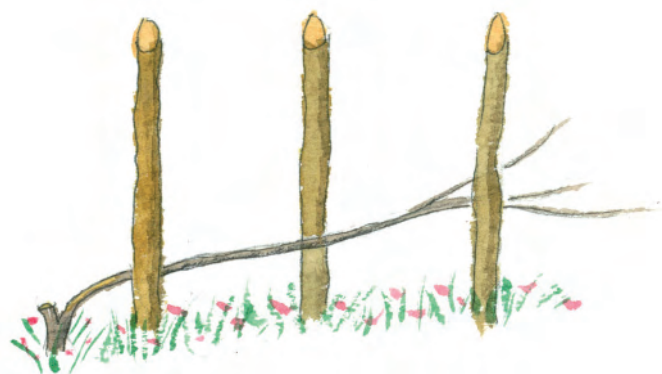
Bend

Professional hedge layers, Hedgecraft, have used the South of England Style that will keep the hedge thick and bushy so that it continues to

fulfil its function as a wildlife haven. The original hawthorn row is being laid in four stages: cut, bend, stake and secure.

1. Cut: the lower stems (pleachers) of the hawthorn are cut part way through, leaving a section of bark intact so that nutrients can still be channelled from the roots to the top of the shrub.
2. Bend: each pleacher is bent at an angle, so that the row of pleachers forms a dense parallel row of diagonal stems.
3. Stake: vertical stakes, cut from hazel or ash, are fixed firmly in the ground at 18-inch intervals in a line alongside the pleachers.
4. Secure: the tops of the pleachers are neatly bound together with hazel along the top of the stakes.

In the case of Holland Park's hedge the row of mixed native hedgerow plants have been cut down to near the ground (coppiced) as they were too far from the hawthorn to bind in at this stage. The reason for the gap was to create a corridor for small mammals. The coppiced plants will re-grow into a bushy 'face' of the hedge which will show off the buds, flowers and fruit to advantage. The increased light to the plants encourages thick re-growth so that the hedge is regenerated and remains healthy, thereby greatly increasing its lifespan. Any gaps can be filled, and the resulting green corridor benefits wildlife.



Stake

Some of the lovely hedgerow plants you can see in our wildlife hedge are: blackthorn/sloe, common dogwood, crab apple, dog rose, elder, field maple, guelder rose, hawthorn, hazel, hornbeam, privet, rowan, spindle, sweet briar rose, wayfaring tree and wild cherry. Why not walk along the hedge in spring, then again in summer and autumn, and see how many of these species you can identify.



Secure

Jennie Kettlewell (text and illustrations)

We are delighted that in the face of considerable opposition and almost 300 letters of objection, Opera Holland Park (OHP) withdrew the planning application which would have allowed them to leave their enormous canopy in situ all the year round.

However, OHP has put in a new application which is still damaging, this time for the canopy to be in place for **eight** months, 1 March to 31 October. The Friends of Holland Park Committee feel this is indulgent and excessive for an opera season that lasts just two months. We are not against the opera or the canopy in itself, but we urge you to take action to limit the period to an absolute maximum of **five** months from mid-April to mid-September. Further information on our reasons for objecting may be seen on our website: www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org.



Holland House free of the theatre, taken by Rhoddy Wood

The planning application is open to public consultation officially until 22 February, but if you write quickly on receipt of your newsletter, your objection will still count. If you feel as we do that, even if you are an opera lover, the time that the park and access to the house is affected by OHP is simply too long, then please write to Planning and Borough Development, Town Hall, Hornton Street, W8 7NX quoting reference PP/13/00374.

Thank you all very much for your help and support.



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There was the biggest audience that I can recall in the Orangery for the thirteenth visit by the Tallis Chamber Choir and their conductor, Philip Simms. Once again Philip Simms had devised a remarkably varied programme with carols from France, Germany, The Netherlands, Italy, Spain and the United States as well as the United Kingdom.

We began with *Torches* and *There is no rose of such virtue* (the former based on a Galician carol), composed in the early 1950s, the two most popular works of the South-African-born composer John Joubert (b. 1927). We then had a piece by Giovanni Gabrieli (c. 1555-1612), the Venetian composer, composed specifically for Christmas in St Mark's, Venice; although there were only 18 singers in the choir, they sang this eight-part piece with a wonderful richness. There followed a traditional Sicilian carol, *Quando nascette Ninno* (When the babe was born), known as the bagpiper's carol, which might have inspired 'He shall feed his flock' in Handel's *Messiah*, as the melodies are very similar. We finished the first half with *Bogoroditsye Devo* (Rejoice, O Virgin) from Rachmaninov's *All Night Vigil* composed in 1915, which

included three different kinds of chant; this created a wonderful atmosphere perhaps never experienced in the Orangery before.

We began the second half with *Ecce virgo concipiet* by the Dutch composer J.P. Sweelinck (1562-1621). We then had *Away in a manger* in a version based on a traditional Normandy tune, arranged by the conductor Reginald Jacques (1894-1969). The tune is delightful, and it made a change from the more familiar one. We now came closer to the present day with *Winter Wonderland* written in 1934 by Felix Bernard (1897-1944), an American who wrote popular songs for many well known American singers. We were still in the US for *Santa Claus is coming to town*, originally composed by J. Fred Coots and Haven Gillespie, also in 1934, but in an arrangement by the English composer, Peter Gritton. The choir finished with the *Donkey Carol* composed in 1975 by John Rutter (b. 1945), who also wrote the poetic text, this being the donkey's account of the journey to Bethlehem, and the nativity.

The audience sang lustily in four carols, and there were six readings by members of the choir, three of them by Dylan Thomas describing his own childhood Christmases.

After the delicious food provided by Janice Miles we went home having had a wonderful evening and a splendid introduction to Christmas. We give our thanks to Philip Simms and the choir for a great evening and, as I have said before, we hope that they keep coming back.

George Law



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Open Garden Squares Weekend

Saturday 8 – Sunday 9 June

On this weekend 200 hidden and little-known gardens are open to the public. They are located across 27 London boroughs, and range from the historic and traditional to the new and experimental, and include private gardens, roof gardens, community allotments, gardens belonging to historic buildings, institutions, cafés, schools and shops.

This annual Weekend, established in 1998, is the London Parks & Gardens Trust's highest-profile event, aiming to increase knowledge and the appreciation of London's green, open-space network. The Weekend is again presented in association with The National Trust.

For more information please visit www.opensquares.org

Dates for your Diary



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', some of which are sponsored by FHP where indicated. Unless otherwise stated the meeting place is outside the Ecology Centre in the stable yard. 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 £.

The Holland Park Conservation Volunteers sessions are on every third Saturday of the month. For more information call 020 8762 0322 or visit www.groundwork.org.uk/london

Sat 2 Mar	BNW	
Sat 16 - Sun 24 Mar	Annual Art Exhibition (see p.5), in the Orangery	
Wed 20 Mar	Annual General Meeting , in the Orangery	7.30pm
Sat 23 Mar	ES. Spring Wildlife Area Open Day. Drop in at wildlife area	2-6pm
Sat 23 Mar	Russian Virtuosi of Europe concert (see p.7), in the Orangery, £15	7.30pm
Tue 2 - Fri 12 Apr	ES. Easter children's holiday activities. Must book. £	
Fri 5 Apr	ES. Children's Night Safari in Holland Park. Must book. £	7.30-9pm
Sat 6 Apr	BNW	
Sat 4 May	ES. Dawn Chorus Bird Walk (sponsored). Meet in car park. Must book	5am
Sat 4 May	BNW	
Wed 8 May	ES. Bat Walk and Talk, London Bat Group (sponsored). Must book	8pm
Sat 11 May	ES. Bird-ringing demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at wildlife area	8am-12
Tues 21 May	ES. Wildlife Area Open Evening. Drop in at wildlife area	5-7pm
Tue 28 - Fri 31 May	ES. Half term children's holiday activities. Must book. £	
Sat 1 June	BNW	
Sat 8 - Sun 9 June	Open Garden Squares Weekend (see opposite)	
Sat 15 June	Tree walk . Dr Alan Harrington. Meet in stable yard	11am-1pm
Sat 22 June	ES. Wildflower and Folklore Walk (sponsored). Must book	2-4pm
Tues 25 June	ES. Wildlife Area Open Evening. Drop in at wildlife area	6-8pm
Sat 6 July	BNW	
Sat 6 July	ES. Butterfly and Moth Morning (sponsored). Must book	10am-12
Wed 10 July	Pimm's in the Park . In the youth hostel garden, £12	6-8pm
Sat 13 July	ES. Summer Wildlife Area Open Day. Drop in at wildlife area	2-6pm
Wed 18 July	ES. Tree Walk: The Basics. Must book	6.30-8pm

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. Online booking opens to the general public on 25 April (www.operahollandpark.com), telephone booking on 29 April (0300 999 1000) and in person on 7 May.

***Cavalleria rusticana* by Mascagni and *Pagliacci* by Leoncavallo** June 4, 7, 11, 15, 19, 22, 26, 28 **7.30pm**

***Madame Butterfly* by Puccini** June 8, 12, 14, 16 (matinée 2pm), 20, 24, 29. July 2, 4 **7.30pm**

***Les pêcheurs de perles* by Bizet** June 25, 27. July 3, 6, 9, 11, 13 **7.30pm**

***L'elisir d'amore* by Donizetti** July 16, 18, 20, 24, 26, 30. August 1, 3 **7.30pm**

***I gioielli della Madonna* by Wolf-Ferrari** July 23, 25, 27, 31. August 2 **7.30pm**

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