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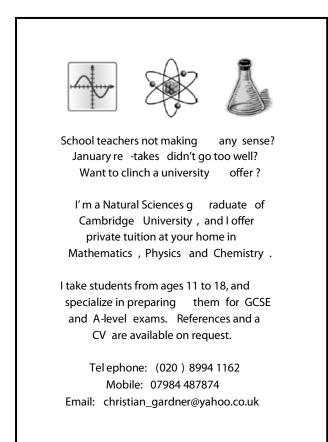
Deborah Newberry

www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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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.



Subscription Reminder and Standing Orders

Thank you to all those who have renewed their subscriptions for 2011. The subscription year starts on 1 January when all renewals were due except from those members who have joined since September 2010.

Currently we have about 750 members paid up for 2011, including nearly 600 who paid by standing order on 1 January. That leaves about 200 who have not yet paid and if you have not done so you will find your order form is green. If yours is green, PLEASE PAY NOW. On the back of each green order form is a standing order form. If you fill this in, you never need to remember again.



Wednesday, 30 March at 7.30pm in the Orangery

Please come this year. It is the only time in our calendar when you, the members, have the opportunity to hear directly from the trustees, your committee, about what they have been doing on your behalf. You also, of course, have the chance to ask questions and make suggestions for future activities, both of which will be welcomed.

There is a little official business, like the annual accounts and the election of the trustees. This year you will also be asked to vote on proposals for new categories of membership (see article below). But most of the time is spent in the giving and receiving of information about the Park and everything that affects it.

Our membership is the strength of The Friends. It is because of it that we have a voice and a voice which is listened to. It is therefore important that we can demonstrate an active membership, not only interested in the general wellbeing of the Park, but actually involved in The Friends' campaigns and decisions.

An added attraction is that the AGM coincides with our annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery and after the meeting you will have the perfect opportunity to view the exhibits – and we hope purchase something – with a glass or two of wine for added jollity.

This is also the time of the year to think about becoming a trustee of The Friends or offering to undertake some work on our behalf. We are always in need of new talent to bring energy and renewed enthusiasm to the committee and, as you will see elsewhere, we are in urgent need of a new treasurer. Please contact the chairman or secretary for more details and a confidential, no obligation chat.

Proposed New Subscription Categories

At present we have only two categories of annual subscription: £12 for a single member and £9 for a single senior member, which means that those married couples or partners who join together pay two single subscriptions. Many charities offer joint membership, usually at a rate slightly less than double the single membership, and your committee considers it would be beneficial to The Friends to have such a category. All subscription rates have to be approved by the membership in General Meeting. Your committee therefore proposes the following resolution for approval at the AGM:

1 "There shall be a category of membership called joint membership open to any two individuals living at the same address. The annual subscription for joint membership shall be $\pounds 20$ or $\pounds 15$ for seniors. To qualify for joint senior membership both members must be seniors."

A member has suggested that life membership should be available to The Friends. Your committee is uncertain that this is something that would be attractive to members or prospective members but, in order that the membership can decide, proposes the following resolution:

 $\begin{array}{c} 2 & \text{``There shall be a category of membership} \\ \text{called life membership the subscription for} \\ \text{which for the duration of the member's life shall be} \\ \text{\pounds 300 or } \text{\pounds 200 for seniors.''} \end{array}$

The use of the term "senior" or "concession" varies from one organisation to another. Your committee considers that it would be fair to define it as applying to anyone aged 60 or over and proposes the following resolution for approval:

3 "For the purpose of membership subscriptions 'senior' means someone aged 60 or over".



Probably because of the excessively cold weather there were some empty seats in the Orangery when we welcomed the Tallis Chamber Choir and their conductor, Philip Simms, for the eleventh time. Those who failed to come missed a real treat. This year's programme was less cosmopolitan than usual as the composers and arrangers were predominantly Anglo-Saxon (if we may count Americans as Anglo-Saxon) and the pieces were mainly traditional English carols. There were also the customary readings, which included three extracts from The wind in the willows by Kenneth Grahame, who lived for many years in Phillimore Place. The readings were again by members of the choir, except for one by our own Joy Puritz. A novelty was a keyboard to accompany the choir in some of the pieces. The choir started with an arrangement by David Willcocks (b.1919) of a traditional carol, Masters in this hall, with words by William Morris. This was followed by the first work by Thomas Tallis (1505-85) which the choir have ever performed for us, O nata lux de lumine, probably written in 1575, and not typical of Tallis in that it is mostly homophonic and chordal. There



were then two more traditional carols, *There was a pig*, arranged by Imogen Holst and *What child is this*, the music being an arrangement of *Greensleeves* by two American composers, Alice Parker (b.1925) and Robert Shaw (1916-99). The next piece was an arrangement of a German carol *Still, still, still* by Philip Ledger (b.1937), who was Artistic Director of the Aldeburgh Festival before becoming Director of the choir of King's College, Cambridge for nearly 10 years, and then Principal of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for some 20 years until 2001. The first half ended with one of the most popular compositions of Michael Head (1900-76), *The little road to Bethlehem*, a gentle and affectionate carol with words by Margaret Rose.

The second half began with A hymn to the Virgin, one of Benjamin Britten's earliest works, originally written while he was serving a spell in the sanatorium at Gresham's School in Lowestoft, and one of only two of his own pieces performed at his funeral service in 1976. It is antiphonal in form and close to traditional English church music. Next we had Jesus Christ the apple tree, a mystical poem written by an unknown late 18th-century American and set to music as a carol by Elizabeth Poston (1905-87) with a very pure folksong-like sound. This was followed by an arrangement by John Rutter (b.1945) of the Wexford carol which originates from County Wexford and dates back to the 12th century and is thus one of the oldest extant carols in the European tradition. Then, as light relief, there was a setting of The goslings by Sir Frederick Bridge (1844-1924), for many years organist at Westminster Abbey, which combined Edwardian humour with Victorian sentimentality. As a finale we had Philip Simms' own arrangement of When you wish upon a star by Leigh Harline and Ned Washington from Walt Disney's Pinocchio. The carols sung by the choir were interspersed with four carols sung by the audience which was in pretty good voice. The musical part of the evening was completed by an encore, Philip Simms' arrangement of Irving Berlin's I'm dreaming of a white Christmas, without which no Christmas carol concert for the Friends would be complete. Finally we had the pleasure of the wonderful food produced by Janice Miles supplemented by excellent drink. Once again it was a most memorable and enjoyable evening.

FHP

The Art Exhibition in the Orangery will open to the public from Saturday afternoon 26 March until Sunday 3 April. It is a really interesting and varied display and the setting is exceptionally beautiful, so do come along and bring your friends. We hope to give pleasure to everyone but also to sell as many works as possible and to encourage visitors to join The Friends of Holland Park.

All artists who enter the exhibition should note the timetable below as **all the dates are very important**. The deadline for receipt of the exhibits details form is Wednesday 2 March to make sure that works are listed in the catalogue. If these are late it makes it harder for us to organise and harder for visitors to see all the details.

Full information on both the main exhibition and

the minimarket can be seen at The Friends' website www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org. If you would like to become a Friend or register for the exhibition you should contact Mrs Rhoddy Wood, 21 Kenton Court, 356 Kensington High Street, W14 8NN, rhoddy.wood@virgin.net. For other information contact Mrs Andy Walker, 4 Iverna Gardens, W8 6TN, a.m.walker@virgin.net.

As usual a prize of £150 for artistic excellence will be awarded, together with two prizes of £75 each, one for the work which best expresses the essential spirit and quality of Holland Park, and one for a threedimensional work. We are very pleased that Isabel Langtry has agreed to judge the entries, and the prize-winners will be announced at the Private View of the exhibition on Monday evening, 28 March.

Art Exhibition Timetable

Wed 2 March	Deadline for details forms for all exhibits to reach us, to allow
	for listing in the catalogue.
	Five free preview tickets for each artist if we have your requests.
Fri 25 March	From 9.00am to 12.00noon
	artists deliver works to The Orangery.
Fri 25 March	From 12.00 noon to 6.00pm
	works will be hung and displayed for the exhibition.
Private Views:	Saturday 26 March, 10.30-12.30.
	Monday 28 March, 7.30-9.30pm.

The exhibition is open to the public free of charge on Saturday 26 March from 1.00-6.30pm and from Sunday 27 March to Sunday 3 April from 10.30am – 6.30pm.

Artists and buyers collect their works after the exhibition on Sunday 3 April from 6.30-7.30pm and Monday 4 April from 9.00-11.00am.

No works can be collected before 6.30pm on Sunday 3 April as this would spoil the exhibition for others. We look forward to seeing you at the exhibition and hope that you enjoy it.

Keep an eye out for this unusual chair, carved from English oak, following the natural grain and burrs of the wood and already silvering with exposure to the elements. Your secretary first saw it at Chelsea, surrounded by roses on an awardwinning stand. It will reach the Park next spring and will probably be placed facing the Arboretum (last year's pig enclosure). This is a peaceful area and, we judged, appropriate to sit on and read poetry. If you have not brought your own, you will find changing volumes to explore.

Poetry Seat



The maker is Martin Pigg from Norfolk, who has named the seat "oak umbrella chair". He says: "The whole ethos behind my carvings is the Maori Koru which represents life, regeneration and new beginnings. I like to think I give the diseased or wind-blown tree a new life which one hopes will stand for another 200 years. From the start of my tree surgery, I have always collected interesting pieces of wood, hollow stems, burrs, roots etc. which to my mind are sculptures in themselves." The Friends are pleased to give such an intriguing piece to Holland Park.



Londoners by now have firmly in mind that 2012 is the year of the Olympics. We should also remember that it is the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and we should not be surprised that the Greater London Lieutenancy is considering how this should be celebrated. Holland Park staff have been asked to come up with an idea to mark the occasion in the Park, but meanwhile Mr Roger Jefcoate, CBE has put forward his own suggestion which



is that each London Borough should plant a black poplar. Roger was able to provide the necessary cuttings but needed somewhere to plant them so that they could root in spring 2011 in time to be given to the boroughs for the planting season of 2011/2012. RBKC agreed that the disused raised beds on the site of the old squash court could be employed, and our picture shows them being planted here in December by Roger (left) and the Mayor, Councillor James Husband. At the time of writing, forty have gone in, and it is expected that a spare thirty or so will be added.

Roger Jefcoate is not a stranger to Holland Park. Members will remember that he gave us a black poplar cutting to plant at the bottom of the playing field in autumn 2007. Though there have been setbacks with vandalism here, there

Difficult Problems Solved

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

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is now a young tree growing away sturdily and with a degree of protection which we hope will enable it to survive. If it does it could reach over a hundred feet high and almost as much wide: a truly magnificent tree. He has also planted cuttings in, among others, Buckingham Palace, Sandringham, Windsor, Lambeth Palace, Chequers and Salisbury Cathedral, so we are in good company.

So what is a black poplar and why is it so special? The scientific name is *Populus nigra subspecies betulifolia* and it has long

been thought to be an English native, though doubts have recently been raised. Two hundred years ago there are said to have been about two million in England, the same number as oaks, whereas now there are more like six thousand, and some clones of them are vulnerable to a fungal disease which has already killed large numbers in the Manchester area. It is hoped that Roger's cuttings which all come from a few trees near his home near Milton Keynes are of a nonvulnerable clone. Determination of the clones can only be through examining their DNA, an expensive business, which already appears to show that most of the English trees are not seedlings but planted truncheons. This inclines to be self perpetuating as single sex populations are created.

A note on names here may be helpful. From 1750 many crosses have been made with the American Eastern Cottonwood, P. deltoides, which are collectively known as P. x canadensis or hybrid black poplars. They grow more rapidly than the wild black poplar, attaining a similar height sooner, but are mostly narrower and less dense trees and their timber is less durable. They are therefore good for screens and rows but are less impressive as specimens than the broader, denser wild trees. All the poplars in Holland Park, except Roger's, are hybrids. To avoid confusion of names, it has now been suggested that the common name of P.n. betulifolia should revert to the old English "water poplar". This would seem appropriate as it likes growing on river banks and in water meadows but has not yet been universally adopted. We will use it in the rest of this article to see how it reads.

The water poplar is approved by conservationists not only for its traditional value and its high quality timber but also for its encouragement of biodiversity: its rough bark shelters many insects and makes it second only to the oak as a host for wildlife. (A curious exception is that mistletoe will grow on hybrid black poplars but not on the water poplar.) The spiral gall appears only on the water poplar and its cultivars, not on its hybrids, which makes a valuable identification tool in summer. Other field characteristics of the water poplar are the irregularly burred trunks with swirling ridges and the overall shape: its main branches sweep downwards and from them young shoots rise vertically.

We hope that the cuttings growing in Holland Park will all flourish and be appreciated throughout London.

Filp

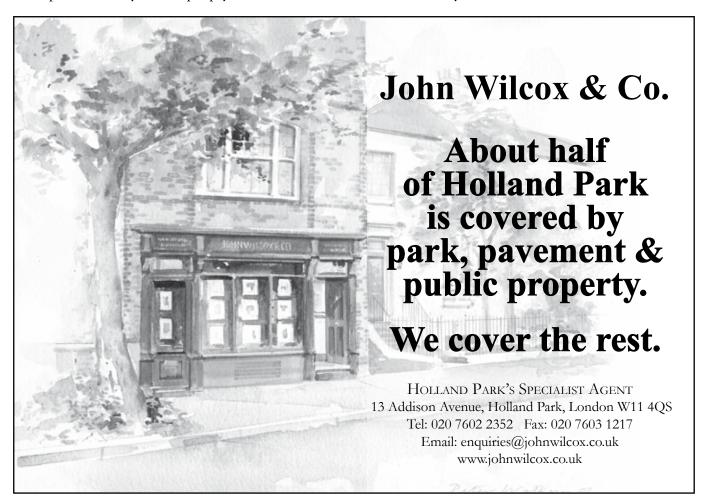
A vacancy among The Friends' voluntary trustees will emerge over the next few months when our present treasurer retires. This is an important role and we are keen to find a suitable replacement quickly to enable a period of shadowing the present incumbent, followed by a smooth handover.

The treasurer is responsible for the safe and secure management of The Friends' annual income of some £30k and financial assets currently standing at around £80k. This includes the receipt of annual subscriptions, donations, and other revenues; cheque payments for all approved outgoings; banking, investment, licence and insurance arrangements, and preparation of the annual accounts. A former treasurer and chartered accountant assists with the annual accounts and an assistant treasurer helps with day-to-day banking. The treasurer is also our main channel of communication with the Charity Commission, ensuring compliance both with their requirements and our own Constitution. Accounting or book-keeping experience would of course be desirable, but it is not a pre-requisite. However, a head for figures and the ability to learn a basic computer accounting program is a must.

If you feel this is something you could do, and you would like to help The Friends and the Park in such a tangible and recognised role, please contact the chairman or the treasurer to discuss the position more fully. If it is not for you, please consider if any of your friends might be interested in supporting the work of The Friends and ensuring that our glorious Park may continue to benefit from our efforts.

Norland Conservation Society Annual Lecture Thursday, 31 March at 7.30pm

This year's lecture is entitled "London Street Markets and Portobello Road" and will be given by Carrie Starren followed by a question-and-answer session with Mark Barr, Mark Atkinson and Nicholas Kosic. It will take place at the Church of St James Norlands, St James's Gardens and will be followed by refreshments. Tickets are available at £8 each from Veronica Scott, 24 Addison Avenue, W11 4QR. Please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope and make your cheque payable to "Norland Conservation Society".





The Friends of Holland Park

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2010

	£	<u>2009</u> £
Incoming Resources:		
Donations	4,884	4,310
Activities in furtherance of objects:		
Subscriptions	10,316	13,093
Advertising	2,175	1,330
Activities for generating funds:		
Events	8,281	9,628
Sale of merchandise	2,186	1,441
Interest	648	1,000
Total Incoming Resources	28,490	30,802
Resources Expended:		
Cost of generating funds		
Fundraising direct costs	1,472	394
Event expenses	5,677	7,087
Cost of merchandise	1,208	679
	8,357	8,160
Charitable Expenditure:		
Newsletter	5,607	5,573
Grants	7,139	23,226
	12,746	28,799
Governance Costs	336	755
Extraordinary Item	2,794	
Total Resources Expended	24,233	37,714
Net Incoming/(Outgoing) Resources	4,257	(6,912)
Fund balances brought forward	68,412	75,324
Fund Balances carried forward	72,669	68,412

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2010

		<u>2009</u>
	£	£
Current Assets:		
Debtors and prepayments	401	281
Deposit and current accounts	73,322	70,006
	73,723	70,287
Creditors:		
Amounts falling due within one year	1,054	1,875
Net Assets	72,669	68,412

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



What could be pleasanter than rounding off our 2011 Art Exhibition with music. We are delighted that *Russian Virtuosi* Natalia Lomeiko (violin) and Yuri Zhislin (viola), already well known to us, are performing for us again, this time joined by



Zoya Vyazovska (flute) and Richard Harwood (cello). The programme will consist of Schubert's String Trio in B flat, Beethoven's String Trio in c minor, Bruni's Duo for Violin and Viola, and Mozart's Flute Quartet No.1 in D.

Natalia Lomeiko, hailed by Lord Menuhin as "one of

the most brilliant of our younger violinists" and now a Professor at the Royal College of Music, is a Gold-Medal winner of the Premio Paganini and the Michael Hill International Violin Competitions. She has been accompanied by major orchestras such as the St Petersburg Radio-Symphony, Tokyo Royal Philharmonic, Royal Philharmonic and Philharmonia. She has recorded for Dynamic, Trust Records, Fone and Naxos. Yuri Zhislin, also a Professor at the Royal College, was described by the Strad magazine as "a virtuoso with a lyrical talent and truly Romantic temperament". He is a winner of the BBC Radio 3 and Dvarionas International Violin Competitions. In 2004 he established his own chamber orchestra, Russian Virtuosi of Europe, and he is much in demand as violinist and violist in concerts and festivals around the world. He has

recorded for Somm and Naxos. **Zoya Vyazovska**, having studied piano, harp, flute and violin in Moscow is now in her second year at the Royal Academy of Music, studying flute with William Bennett. Since 2001 she has played as a soloist with several orchestras in the main Moscow concert halls. In 2010 she

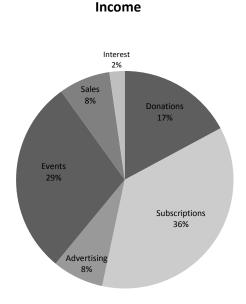


performed with the Odense Symphony Orchestra, won 2nd prize and Special Prize for Interpretation in the Carl Nielsen International Flute Competition.

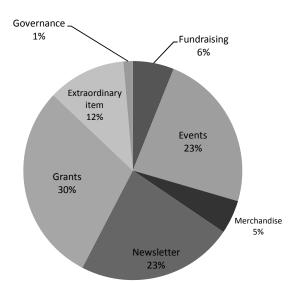


Richard Harwood, the only one of our artists who is not Russian born, made his concerto debut at the age of ten. He has performed concerti and recitals in major venues such as the Royal Albert Hall, the South Bank, the Wigmore Hall and the Musikverein (Vienna). He has been soloist with several major orchestras here and

abroad. He has given many radio broadcasts for the BBC, in France and in New Zealand, and has recorded for EMI, among others. He was the first British cellist to be awarded the title *Bachpreisträger* at the 2004 International Johann Sebastian Bach Competition in Leipzig.



Expenditure







In our last issue we told you of our long search for a "wavy-bench" craftsman and the eventual delivery and installation of a very smart pair of benches on either side of the steps up to Holland House.

On 15 November The Royal Borough kindly hosted a small ceremony and reception, at which your chairman officially donated the benches to the Park.



He told the gathering that, somewhat incongruously, the inspiration for the design had not come from another of our stately homes, but from outside the craft museum in the Turkish quarter of Nicosia, seen by our secretary a few years back. Councillor Nick Paget-Brown, the cabinet member responsible for Holland Park, graciously accepted the benches and thanked The Friends, saying: "I am delighted that The Friends of Holland Park have given these excellent gifts to the Park. The benches look great and will no doubt be welcomed by many of the visitors to the Park who want to sit down for a while and take in some of the great views the park has to offer."

Our photo shows, from left to right, Rhoddy Wood, Nicholas Hopkins, Cllr Paget-Brown, Mrs Priscilla Frazer (recently retired as Chairman of the Holland Park Advisory Group) and Cllr Deborah Collinson.

Pimm's in the Park Thursday, 21 July, 6.00 – 8.00pm in the youth hostel garden

After two very successful parties, this is now firmly back on our annual events calendar after an absence of several years. Thanks to the kindness and generosity of Sally Martyn-Johns, the manager of the youth hostel, we are allowed to hold it in the youth hostel's private garden, adjacent to the east wing of Holland House. Not even the youth hostellers are allowed onto its lawn, so we are especially fortunate.

No opera performance is scheduled for this evening, but the strains of a rehearsal cannot be ruled out. It is also an occasion when we invite a few guests to say "thank you" to them for the work they put in to make the Park such a pleasure and delight all the year round.

Our parties would be incomplete without Janice Miles's catering and we shall again be able to enjoy her delicious summer canapés. All you have to do is book your tickets at £12 each on the enclosed order form, or via our web site – and pray for good weather.



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.

At the time of going to print, events organised by the Ecology Service of RBK&C have not yet been advertised. These will appear on their website, www.rbkc.gov.uk/ecology. The telephone number of the Ecology Centre is 020 7938 8186 and their e-mail address is ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk.

0 5 14		
Sat 5 Mar	BNW	
25 Mar – 4 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery. See timetable herein.	
Wed 30 Mar	FHP Annual General Meeting. In the Orangery.	7.30pm
Sat 2 Apr	BNW	
Sat 2 Apr	Recital by Russian Virtuosi. In the Orangery. £15.	7.30pm
Sat 7 May	BNW	
Sat 4 June	BNW	
Sat 11 – Sun 12 June	Open Garden Squares Weekend. Details from: www.londongardenstrust.org, www.opensquares.org or 020 7839 3969.	
	www.ioiidongardenstrust.org, www.opensquares.org of 020 7839 3909.	
Sat 2 July	BNW	
Thur 21 July	Pimm's in the Park. In the youth hostel garden. £12.	6 – 8pm

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but isn't. They are able to take the weight off your shoulders and add significant value in the process. To sum up: they get better results.

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