



The Friends of Holland Park
Summer 2014

JOHN D WOOD & CO.

THERE'S MORE GOING ON THAN YOU MIGHT THINK



Pottery Lane Guide Price £1,350,000
SOLD in excess of the asking price



Woodsford Square Guide Price £4,250,000
SOLD to an international buyer



Addison Avenue Guide Price £7,500,000
SOLD in excess of the asking price



Portland Road Guide £550 per week
LET within a week of coming to the market



Addisland Court Guide £1,375 per week
LET to an international tenant

If you are considering selling or letting your property please contact us to arrange a market appraisal, without obligation.



William Tellwright
Sales

020 7727 2233
10 Portland Road, Holland Park W11 4LA
hollandpark@johndwood.co.uk
Sales & Lettings



Sally Hamilton
Lettings

If you are kind enough to recommend John D Wood & Co. which results in us earning a fee (which we would not otherwise have earned), we will be delighted to reward you, or a charity of your choice, 10% of any sale or letting fee received.

Please note if you have already instructed another estate agent on a sole agency basis the terms of that agreement must be considered before contacting us to avoid a dual fee liability.

The Friends' AGM was held on 9 April 2014. The President, Sir Angus Stirling, welcomed those present, and the minutes of the 2013 AGM were approved.

Trustees' Report for 2013, delivered by Andy Walker. Following strong objections to an application for a permanent canopy for Opera Holland Park in early 2013, The Friends of Holland Park (FHP) had explored mutually-acceptable solutions with the Council and had decided not to object to the planning application for 2014. Trustees had also met developers of the Commonwealth Institute site and of the Holland Park School playground, to discuss and manage impact on the park. The school development would be seven storeys high, with one below ground, and would not be visible from the North Lawn when trees were in leaf. FHP had again sponsored Ecology Centre events, made a contribution to the purchase of the 'Walking Man' statue and donated seven picnic tables. The art exhibition had shown works by some 70 artists and attracted many visitors. Two talks, two concerts and the Pimm's in the Park party had all been well attended. These activities had generated a surplus of approximately £4K. Trustees had held regular meetings with Park Management, the Council, Holland Park Liaison Group and Parks Police. Ian Thomson, who had died in June, was remembered with gratitude for leading the Bird and Nature Walks for 20 years.

The Treasurer's Report, delivered by Madeline Denmead. The end-of-year cash balance had been £101K, as against £104K for 2012. Donations to FHP had been less than in 2012 when there had been a one-off donation of £25K. Grants to Holland Park had been £18,478 against £7,004 in 2012: £15K for the 'Walking Man', £2,700 for picnic tables and £700 for Ecology Centre events. The cash balance of £101K substantially exceeded the minimum reserve required to maintain the operation of the charity, but trustees had approved several projects which should reduce the balance during 2014. In reply to a question from the floor, Ms Denmead confirmed that FHP had secured the best possible interest rate.

The Secretary's Report, delivered by Rhoddy Wood. There were 859 paid-up members, with a further 100 likely to renew. 67% had signed for Gift Aid and 600 paid by standing order which reduced the administrative burden. Door drops, the FHP website and personal contacts had produced 77 new members. Mrs Wood thanked all who had volunteered for drops, newsletter deliveries, art exhibition stewarding, garden work with Quadron, wildlife conservation Saturdays; more volunteers were always welcome. She was grateful to exhibitors at the art exhibition and particularly mentioned Marika Eversfield who had entered work every year since the start and would be aged 100 on her next birthday. Sir Angus paid

tribute to Mrs Wood for her work and great knowledge of the park.

Election of the Trustees. All trustees, except Ms Denmead, stood for re-election. Simon Lindesay-Bethune, who had been co-opted as Assistant Treasurer, stood for election. All were re-elected or elected. Roger Foreman was re-elected as Independent Examiner.

Chairman's Outlook for 2014, delivered by Jennie Kettlewell.

Major developments: Trustees had decided not to object to planning consent for the Opera buildings, on two conditions: that discussions for a mutually-acceptable solution continue and that the terrace remain open until 10 March 2014, the date planning consent had taken effect. Improvements to the terrace, which was an inappropriately scruffy environment for a Grade-I-listed building, were also being discussed. The trustees were monitoring progress on the 30-year lease offered by the Council for the youth hostel site, bearing in mind that an act of parliament limited usage and that the buildings were listed. Discussions were continuing with The Design Museum, which had saved the iconic Commonwealth Institute building, especially concerning management of increased visitor traffic after opening in late 2015.

Sponsorship and funding: FHP were again sponsoring Ecology Centre walks and talks, as well as habitat walls for the Centre and two stylised 'trees' for the classroom. The Friends had commissioned a sculpture for the Suntrap Garden and were discussing with Park Management an improved notice board for displaying items of topical interest. A new guide to Holland Park would be produced during the year. Donations totalling approximately £16K had been allocated so far this year.

Fund-raising events: The art exhibition, generously sponsored by Killik & Co., was thriving under the management of Gordon French, and much gratitude was owed to him and his family for their support. Ms Kettlewell thanked Angus Stirling for lending works for display as Feature Artist. Future events included The Russian Virtuosi of Europe concert, the Pimm's in the Park party, the autumn talk and the annual carol concert on 7 December.

Drive for new members: One of the strengths of The Friends was the size of its membership. Around 20% each year were lost due largely to the transient local population, and at least this percentage needed to be recruited annually. Trustees were considering the most cost effective means of recruiting members so that promotion was directed at the groups most likely to be attracted. Ms Kettlewell thanked the trustees for their hard work and Sir Angus for chairing the meeting, and for his support during the year. The meeting was closed at 8.37pm.



Longhorn with calf

The cows are coming back

Two Longhorn cows and their calves will be arriving on 14 July for a three-week stay in the Holland Park meadows (Arboretum and Oak Enclosure). Their task is to graze on the summer pasture before it rots down and enriches the soil, providing an ideal habitat for nettles but a poor one for native wild flowers which prefer nutrient-deprived soil. Some preparatory work will be done to remove the mass of nettles and cow parsley so the cows can get to the grass. **The Park's Ecology team has arranged a talk by John Phillips, who farms the Longhorns at Maydencroft Farm, for 6.30–7.30pm on Wednesday, 23 July.** The talk is free and there is no need to book; just turn up at the Lord Holland statue as the nearest meeting place for the meadows.

Seeking Treasurer

We are looking for someone to join the board of trustees of The Friends of Holland Park to take on the role of treasurer and to help us protect and enhance the historical and natural assets of the park. Madeline Denmead is unable to continue in this role due to her other commitments.

The Treasurer is responsible for financial record keeping, compliance, payment of invoices and for banking miscellaneous receipts. We are lucky to have a very able assistant treasurer, Simon Lindesay-Bethune, who keeps cash-book records for receipts passed to him from our secretary, and pays these sums into the bank. Experience of and a facility for working with figures is essential, as is an eye for detail. For convenience, we need someone who lives in the borough and, if possible, near to the park.

Trustees meet five times a year to progress FHP's plans for reviewing developments that have an impact on the park; making donations that enhance the park; and running fund-raising events for the enjoyment of members.

Design Museum site – replacement of brick wall

The old brick wall that divides the north of the development site from the sports ground has shifted over the years and become unstable. Work is planned to replace it in exactly the same form and location. You will see protective hoarding and barricades to preserve the park's trees, and the path to the tennis court entrance might be temporarily re-routed.

Upgrading of paths

You might have noticed that several paths have been cordoned off for re-surfacing work in recent weeks. Some were in poor condition and the intention is to improve disabled access.

Butterfly and Moth morning – guided walk. 10am–12 noon on Saturday, 12 July.

The event is sponsored by The Friends so is free to attend but please book by ringing 020 7938 8186 or e-mailing ecologycentre@rbkc.gov.uk. Meet at the Ecology Centre.



Comma

Suntrap Garden sculpture

The replacement sculpture commissioned by The Friends should be installed by mid-July. Read more about the work itself and its creator in the autumn newsletter.

Parks police based in the Stable Yard

After much debate about where the merged bi-borough police office will be sited, we are delighted to hear that it will stay in the Stable Yard where space has been vacated by the Ecology Centre.

Prosecution for cycling in Holland Park

No cycling is permitted in Holland Park for safety reasons. A few ignore the clear signs and the first successful prosecution has been made after several verbal warnings.



For a long time now we have watched the site of the old Commonwealth Institute develop into what will become the new location for the Design Museum.

At our Winter Warmer on 27 February Sir Stuart Lipton, co-founder of Chelsfield, the company developing the site, gave us



Arrangement of residential blocks

an overview of the project and explained the story behind what we now see happening. He shared the stage with Carol Patterson from international architects OMA, and Richard Henley from constructional engineers Arup.

We learned that the whole project has been complex, right from the initial concept to the work to secure the iconic building with its hyperbolic parabola roof. The Grade-II-listed building had been empty for years and was deteriorating. In that state there were no takers to restore and inhabit the building. Chelsfield recognised that the key was to create a residential development that attracted sufficient funds to be able to repair the 'ten' building to bring it into useable condition, thus attracting The Design Museum.

The next challenge was how to create appropriate designs for the residential buildings, and Carol Patterson showed us the options generated from a competition. The essence of the chosen design is to echo the square footprint of the Museum, set in green landscaping emulating the park, all now known as Hollandgreen. Three residential cuboid buildings are each set at an angle, to match the museum's orientation to Kensington High Street. The buildings have now reached their maximum height and, when the covers come off, we will see that they are faced in light-coloured stone. In all, there will be 61 apartments of various sizes, with parking space hidden away in the basements.

Most complicated of all is the Museum building itself. Apparently the original building was never designed to be permanent, nor were the internal floors built to withstand the weight that will now be imposed on them. Imagine the daunting prospect of jacking up a 1,500-tonne roof whilst creating a new, stable structure beneath it. Also imagine that a new basement was to be hollowed out and all this done with a restriction that the building must not shift more than 5-25 mm (depending on the part of the building). Richard Henley told us how the roof has been meticulously rebuilt to withstand the tensions, and make it fit for its future life. From the outside it will still look like the copper roof we have

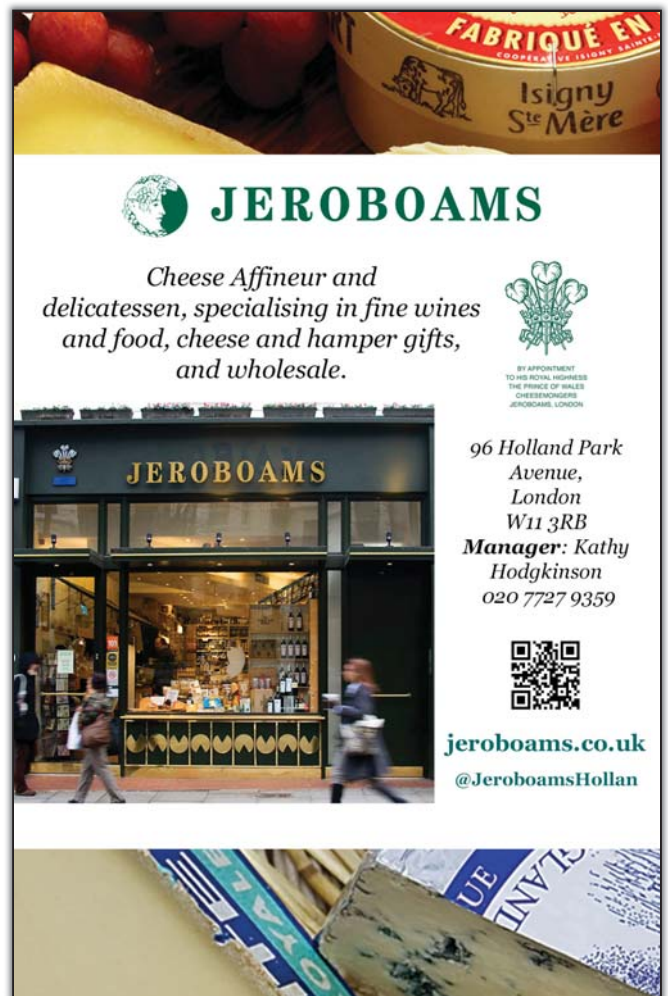
known for years. English Heritage has said it is the most difficult listed building they have ever dealt with. For now, the area is still very much a building site, but soon we will see the temporary site offices removed, the area made safe and the main building handed over to the Design Museum so that they can start

working on the interior.

We have invited Deyan Sudjic, Director of the Design Museum, to come and tell The Friends what the museum itself will be like and what it will offer to the local community and wider public. This will take place in February 2015; opening will not be until later that year.

Jennie Kettlewell

Photo by kind permission of Chelsfield





Des at home in Brook Green



Des with daughter Alice in Suffolk

There are several beehives on the walkway above the arcade overlooking the Iris Garden. They yield honey which is on sale in the park office at the end of the summer. But there is a lot of work involved in achieving this, not only on the part of the bees but also that of a beekeeper. Previously the park's beekeeper was employed by the Borough, but now a volunteer has taken over after a request for one in the Friends' newsletter. Thanks to Friend and FHP exhibition artist Simon Taylor this came to the attention of Des O'Grady who has kept bees for many years at his holiday home in Suffolk. After several months of red tape Des is now tending the bees; he likes the equipment, the strain of bee, and appreciates the help from Park Management, Quadron and the Parks Police. Above all he enjoys the

environment he is working in, and one which provides such variety for the bees.

Des, who lives in Brook Green, became interested in bees years ago whilst on holiday in Ireland going around with a bee inspector friend. Then, about 15 years ago, he started helping a London neighbour with her bees. Eventually she sold him some and he got started.

On a sunny morning in May Des invited me to come to the park to see where and how he works. We collected equipment from a greenhouse near the car park and went up onto the walkway where Des helped me into a bee-suit and lit a smoker. When smoke is pumped near a hive the bees, thinking they might have to leave, gorge themselves on honey, which makes them relatively docile, as indeed is the case when they do leave



Des at the park's hives in March

the hive and swarm. From May to July, the swarming months, the hives are checked every nine days to ensure that there are no queen cells and thus minimise swarming. The Police might report a swarm to Des. Swarming is when a hive 'reproduces' by splitting itself in half: the old queen will leave the hive with the forager bees. Meanwhile the old hive creates a new queen to replace the old one by nourishing queen cells with royal jelly. Swarm management, including minimising the loss of one's own bees and the collection of stray swarms, is part of the beekeeper's early summer work. He has arranged for a lure



Super frame. Pale cells are full of honey and sealed with wax



Des scraping off excess propolis

hive (smelling of queen pheromone) to be placed nearby in case there is another swarm. If the lure hive is colonised it can easily be transported. Hives can also be reproduced or split artificially: as a way of increasing the number of hives and bee stocks in general, half of an old hive's bees can be taken out and transferred to a nucleus hive where they will make a new queen.



Brood frame. Eggs are in the central cells, pollen is in the yellow, and honey in the outer

I watched Des dismantling the wooden box-like layers – 'lifts' or 'supers' – of a hive, each containing frames of honeycomb. The bottom layer, or 'brood box', is where the queen is kept, under a queen excluder: a metal lid with holes big enough for all other bees but too small for her to get up into the supers where the workers are making honey. Des pulls out and inspects the frames in the supers to check how many cells are full of honey and completely sealed with wax, making them look whitish, and how many are darker and therefore still unsealed. He scrapes off odd lumps of wax and excess propolis,

the sticky insulation made by the bees to seal cracks against cold wind and wasps etc. Lumps of such wax are put into a solar wax extractor in which, through a pane of glass, the sun melts the trapped honey and it runs down to be collected and fed back to the bees.

Through the winter the bees need to be fed occasionally with syrup if they run short of the honey left for them. In March, but not on a cold day, the keeper can open the hives and clean



The queen excluder

out any dead bees and excess propolis. Honey is taken from the hives at the end of May and the beginning of August. Des showed me the gleaming metal centrifuge in which the honeycomb frames are spun for honey extraction. He was happy to see that the honey jars and their lids had just been delivered.

Joy Puritz



Des O'Grady

Your editor playing at beekeeping



Art Exhibition 2014

An enormous amount of work was done again this year to improve the presentation and administration of the exhibition, to publicise the event, and to maximise the revenue return from the sale of art works. This year the weather was on our side and we experienced fantastic attendance and sales figures – well over double the number of visitors of last year as well as double the number of art works sold. We had 77 artists exhibiting of whom 37 sold work, making an approximate total of £11,020, after expenses leaving a surplus of £3,306.50 (including the paintings sold by this year's Feature Artist Angus Stirling whose presence in the exhibition was hugely successful). The Private View was enormously popular, indeed oversubscribed, but the trustees are already holding discussions

about how this can be managed in the future. The exhibition expenses were covered by the donation of our sponsor, Killik & Co., which left the entire 35% percent of art-work sales going to The Friends of Holland Park, the charity dedicated to the protection of our unique and historic park. The 2014 exhibition broke all previous records, and we fully intend to build on this for 2015.

We are very grateful to the trustees who acted as stewards and organised

the arrival and departure of all the art work. A special thank you to Joy Puritz for preparing the catalogue, and to Alison Beckett and Tony Walker for their wonderful work, hanging the entire exhibition in five hours. This year we welcomed back our regular judge Isabel Langtry who again did a superb job. Finally a big thank you to my family, my wife Sandra and my daughter Alex, who work on every stage of the exhibition: without their help I would not have the time to put it together.

Gordon French

Review of the 2014 Art Exhibition

A spirit of warmth and confidence filled the Friends' annual art exhibition in the Orangery this spring as participants demonstrated a breadth of skill from portraiture to abstract and master works in bronze.

Eugenia Killery claimed the show prize with her superb, deceptively simple oil painting of a student dressed in blue. Glyn Hayes' portrait of Giuliano de Medici the Beautiful was exquisite, Marie Thérèse Ross captured the ballerina Darcy Bussell with great delicacy and S. Vakili caught two young siblings with startling reality.

The Hugh Casson Prize for Drawing went to Malgorzata Lapsa-Malawska for her stark vision of a lonely walk in which one small, black-clad figure battled against a landscape of white. 'Girl with Fruit' created in ceramic resin, also proved the 3-D winner for the accomplished sculptor Neal French.

John Schetrumpf brought a smile once again with his happy nude dancers, and so did Bob Barling with another memory of childhood as a 1943 evacuee waiting beside King's Cross lost

property office. Tania Beaumont's bunny-shaped bushes were similarly a delight along with the astonishing fans of Nadhira Benaissa's fungus photograph. Julian St Leger's image of walkers and dogs in Kensington Gardens was brilliantly observed, and animal lovers were generally well represented, among them Pauline Morrison with her charming zebra and foal watercolour and Julian Peach with his jolly paintings of a guinea fowl and a porcupine. Catherine Bajour used her particular love for mosaic to portray a blue rhinoceros, and Barbara Foster sculpted an amazingly balanced goat. Peacocks were at their most glorious painted by Maria Kaleta and Krystyna Dankiewicz. A heron was the star of a splendid Kyoto Garden etching by Julia Martin and featured again in lovely watercolours by Mary Shovelle.

'The Spirit of Holland Park' award, however, went to Primrose Braby for a watercolour full of movement and light showing the wonder of the trees even in March before their new spring foliage. Alessia captured the magic of the park too, with her snow-scene photographs, while Jennifer Bush used pastel to convey the overwhelming pleasure of pink blossom time which was echoed in Sophie Heywood's vividly painted pink haze. A

It was a pleasure to judge The Friends of Holland Park Art Exhibition 2014. After a lovely walk through the beautiful Holland Park on a perfect spring afternoon I was delighted to arrive at the Orangery and view a range of exciting art works rich in diverse media and materials which were being displayed by the hard-working hanging team of Alison Beckett and Tony Walker overseen by Gordon French and Rhoddy Wood.

An opportunity to look at art is a pleasure in itself, the hanging and positioning made the viewing of etchings, photographs, carvings, paintings, mixed media, bronze, prints, photography, ceramics, cast and shaped glass, drawings, decorative jewellery and soft crafts an indulgence. Those selected for prizes or who were highly commended reflected this broad range. I remembered that the painter Edward Ofori, awarded the show prize in 2012 for his superb painting of our Queen, had just been announced as a finalist in this year's Sky Arts Portrait Artist of the Year competition.

Thank you to Eugenia Killery who was awarded the show prize for her excellent painting 'The Student', and to Jo Vollers, highly commended for her lovely painting 'Trees in the Wind'. A new prize this year, The Sir Hugh Casson Drawing Prize, was awarded to Malgorzata Lapsa-Malawska for her beautifully drawn painting 'Lonely Walk'; this is particularly poignant as the late Sir Hugh was the featured artist in last year's exhibition, and a past President of The Friends of Holland Park. His daughters are to be commended for creating this new prize, thus creating new opportunities for artists.



Art Exhibition 2014

Review of the 2014 Art Exhibition (*contd*)

Barbara Hepworth sculpture was a monumental focus for Boney le Touzel's garden painting, contrasting hugely with a meticulous suburban scene by Annabel Bloxham. Further afield, another alluring Greek seascape was presented by Zoe Zenghelis, and David Dimmock offered an exciting image of a masquerade in Venice. Jennifer Blackburn produced two ambitious works based on reflections, and Hazel Fennell once again demonstrated her superb talent for abstract with a vision mostly in cream. David Burrow's cascade of paint and glitter also was an unexpected

The 3D prize was awarded to Neil French for 'Girl with Fruit', a ceramic resin sculpture and a very strong piece of figurative work. Susanne Bagner was highly commended for her beautiful glass work, 'Poppy'. My first award for glass, it was very well earned: a lovely, large-scale piece of a very high standard.

Looking through the browsers is a great treat, many of the works are very reasonably priced and, if you bought a piece, well done: your contribution is extremely important in supporting Holland Park and in encouraging the artists.

Many other artists had a special mention at the Private View, and I congratulate you all again for submitting work and supporting an event that makes such a valuable contribution to the art world. I look forward to seeing your new work next year, alongside new contributors.

Well done to The Friends of Holland Park.

*Isabel H. Langtry, Art Judge and
Principal of Hampstead School of Art*

joy. Elzbieta Stanhope's fish ceramics were enormous fun, while Russell Mack stood out for the unusual shapes of his pottery, and Caroline Ying for the beautiful intricacy of her silver jewellery. However, it was Aude Grasset with her painted maps of France and Britain embellished with intriguing comment, making viewers pause for thought, who added yet another bold dimension to the exhibition.

Alison Beckett



The Pagan Paradise, textile panel, Portugal ca 1700. Los Angeles County Museum of Art

The peacocks in Holland Park have fascinated visitors throughout the park's history. We are fortunate that Louise Coffey-Webb has agreed to talk to us about the iconic birds' place in design and costume. The story begins in the Far East, travelling across borders and through time, with fascinating tales of royalty, magic and beauty. Cultures from China to the Ancient Greeks have

been enamoured of the peacock and have attached complex symbolism to representations of the bird and its feathers. This fascination continues to the present day. Why does the peacock feather enchant us so? How is the iridescence achieved? The imaginatively illustrated talk reveals the mystery and beauty behind the images.

Louise has worked at the BBC; was formerly Associate

Professor in the Fashion and Costume Design Department at Woodbury University in Los Angeles; has worked as Curator, Collections Manager and Archival Advisor to such institutions as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising Museum, the Audrey Hepburn Estate Collection and Zandra Rhodes Enterprises in California.

An experienced lecturer, Louise has discussed costume on US television. Her book, *Managing Costume Collections*, will be published in 2015.

Tickets are £12, to include wine and Janice Miles' delicious canapés. To order tickets please use the order form enclosed with your newsletter, or download it from the Friends of Holland Park website.



From Vogue Magazine (USA), 1964

Welcome to Ian Ross

Ian Ross has taken on the role of Bi-Borough Parks Manager following Barrie Maclaurin's retirement. This means he has overall responsibility for some 90 parks in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, and Hammersmith and Fulham. No mean task.

For the past 12 years Ian worked with Ealing Council, rising from Ranger to Parks Operations Manager. This provided valuable experience from which Holland Park will benefit: nature conservation, biodiversity, trees management, outdoor sports and events. Ian feels one of his greatest achievements is Northala Fields in Ealing. Waste from the original Wembley Stadium and Westfield was used to create the new park, with habitats for wildlife, water as a major feature, and recreational facilities.

What appealed to him about the Royal Borough was its reputation for the quality of its green spaces, Holland Park being the supreme example. This faces him with a challenge. He says: 'When quality is already high, it is that much harder to make improvements, but I am determined to build on the good work of my predecessor.' It is clear that long-term strategy is important to him. One further attraction Ian mentioned is Park Management's practice of accountability by standards achieved, rather than absolute measures of tasks completed.

Since his arrival in March he has absorbed an enormous amount of information. For such a busy man his recall is impressive. Don't tell Ian anything if you don't want action.

Nandina: The Listening Shrub



Nandia Domestica

Heard from the experts caring for the Kyoto Garden:

In Japan, when a man comes home from work, tired and tense, he first goes to his *Nandina* bush and talks to it. He tells it all his troubles, frustrations and grievances from the day, and generally lets off steam. The bush listens but does not answer back. Feeling much better, the man enters his house at peace with the world and greets his wife pleasantly. *Nandina domestica*, also known as Heavenly Bamboo, is a traditional gift throughout S.E. Asia to anyone moving to a new home. You can see a good example of the shrub behind the *tsukubai* stone at the top of the steps to the Kyoto Garden.

Text and photo by Jennie Kettlewell

The Orangery was sold out for the concert on 12 April, and the audience was not disappointed by a very original and interesting programme, brilliantly performed. In addition to our old friends, Natalia Lomeiko (violin) and her husband Yuri Zhislin (viola), we had Natalia's younger sister, Alexandra Lomeiko (violin) and Andrey Lebedev, a young Russo-New Zealand classical guitarist.

The programme opened with a transcription for violin and viola, performed by Natalia and Yuri, of a selection of J.S. Bach's *Two-Part Inventions* originally composed for harpsichord. The original versions of the *Two- and Three-Part Inventions* (called Sinfonias) were composed as exercises for Bach's eldest son, Wilhelm Friedemann, and recorded in the *Clavier-Büchlein* of 1722, but revised and adapted for more general use as instruction pieces. The pieces give the player great examples of musical construction as well as teaching the basics of articulation, phrasing, fingering, ornamentation and the development of a singing tone. The transcription for violin and viola emphasised the need in Bach's own words 'to play cleanly in two parts'. It recalled the transcription of Bach's Goldberg Variations which Natalia and Yuri played for us seven years ago.

There followed the *Grand Sonata for Guitar and Violin in A major* by Niccolò Paganini (1782-1840), composed in 1805/08, played by Alexandra and Andrey. Paganini was the most celebrated violin virtuoso of his time. He initially learnt

the mandolin from his father, but moved on the violin at the age of seven and also studied the guitar. The title of the sonata emphasises the importance of the guitar, which has equal prominence with the violin.

After a short interval we had J.S. Bach's *Sonata No. 2 in A minor*, one of six sonatas and partitas, published in 1720, originally composed for solo violin, but on this occasion with the third and fourth movements transcribed for guitar, again played by Alexandra and Andrey.

We concluded with the *Duo Concertant in C major* for violin and viola by Alessandro Rolla (1757-1841), composed in 1831. Rolla was in his time one of the greatest virtuoso violin and viola players and devised many technical innovations such as left-hand pizzicato, chromatic ascending and descending scales, the use of very high positions on violin and viola and octave passages, all of which were later used and made famous by Paganini. As well as becoming leader and Orchestra Director at La Scala, Milan in 1802, Rolla conducted many operatic premières at La Scala, including about 18 operas by Rossini. He composed about 500 works. The *Duo Concertant* requires great instrumental skill: in few other duets for violin and viola are there passages of such dazzling virtuosity. Natalia and Yuri were more than equal to the challenge.

George Law

We're ready when you are.



Sales: 020 7727 5111

Lettings: 020 7727 5222

14 Portland Road, W11 4LA
jackson-stops.co.uk/london

I knew about moss. It is that green velvety stuff that is soft to tread on in moist places, and that invades my lawn. Not much more to it than that. How wrong I was, as I discovered on 22 February when Dr Alan Harrington led a moss discovery walk in Holland Park, organised by The Friends. He is an expert in bryology, the scientific study of mosses and liverworts. The first clue was when he asked us to arrive with a hand lens.

Under magnification we could see the complexity of the mosses, and that they were miraculous plants in miniature, though they are a category of their own as they have no flowers or seeds but reproduce through spores. Nor do they have true roots but attach themselves to terra firma with fine hair-like threads. What they do share with other plants is a stem and leaf structure through which they produce energy from light (photosynthesis). I was amazed at how beautiful they are and how varied.



Bryum capillare, long known in the park

there are some 417 species in the South East and probably 200 in London alone. How many in Holland Park? The most recent survey carried out in 1999 by Elinor Wiltshire for the Borough's Ecology Service identified 35 species of moss and two of liverwort in the park.

The group studied moss in the grass, moss around the base of trees and moss on tree bark. We learned that



The fallen oak rich with moss

up directly into the cells of the leaves and stems from the surrounding air. An increase in the number of species found is a good sign and implies that the air in the park might be improving, or at least getting no worse.

We found the greatest concentration of interesting mosses on an English oak that had been blown over and come to rest in the bed to the east of the Acer Walk. Park management had sensibly decided to leave the main body of the tree where it lay so that it could continue to provide an excellent habitat for a wide variety of miniature wildlife. If they had removed it they would also have obliterated our treasure trove of mosses.



Lunularia cruciata

Jennie Kettlewell

The Flower Show

Here is a charming postcard, sent by one of our members, which reminds us that before the Royal Horticultural Society went to Chelsea, they held their annual show in the grounds of Holland House. The advertisement dates from 1913.



We hope that all readers interested in the garden history of the park have a copy of *The Pleasure Grounds of Holland House* produced by the Friends in 2012; if not, do get one from Rhoddy Wood or the park office.

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 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 (second Saturday in April and December). For more information, tel. 020 8762 0322, e-mail Netty.Ribeaux@groundwork.org.uk or visit www.groundwork.org.uk/london

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------|
| Sat 5 July | BNW | |
| Sat 5 July | ES. Open day: Creepy Crawlies. Drop in at wildlife area. | 2-6pm |
| Sat 12 July | ES. Butterfly and Moth Morning (sponsored). Must book. | 10am-12 noon |
| Wed 16 July | ES. Tree walk: the basics. Must book. | 6.30-8pm |
| Sat 19 July | ES. Woodland Explorers (5-10 years). Must book. | 10.30am-12.30pm |
| Wed 23 July | ES. Talk on Longhorn cattle by John Phillips. Meet at the Lord Holland statue. | 6.30-7.30pm |
| 23 July - 30 Aug | ES. Summer holiday children's activities. Must book. £ | |
| Sat 2 Aug | BNW | |
| Sat 2 Aug | ES. Dragonflies in the wildlife area. Drop in at the wildlife area | 2-6pm |
| Sat 16 Aug | ES. Woodland Explorers (as above). | |
| Fri 29 Aug | ES. Children's Night Safari in Holland Park. Must book. £ | 7.30-9pm |
| Sat 6 Sept | BNW | |
| Sat 13 Sept | ES. Bird-ringing demonstration (sponsored). Drop in at the wildlife area. | 7.30-11.30am |
| Sat 13 Sept | ES. Autumn Folklore and Flora Walk (sponsored). Must book. | 2-4pm |
| Wed 17 Sept | ES. Bat Walk (sponsored). Must book. | 7pm |
| Sat 20 Sept | ES. Woodland Explorers (as above). | |
| Sat 4 Oct | BNW | |
| Sat 4 Oct | ES. Nature Photography: creative skills workshop. Must book. £ | 10am-4pm |
| Sat 4 Oct | ES. Open Day: Autumn's Harvest. Drop in at wildlife area. | 12-4pm |
| Sat 18 Oct | Autumn tree walk with Alan Harrington. Meet by the Stable Yard. | 11am-1pm |
| Sat 25 Oct | ES. Fungi Foray (sponsored). Must book. | 2-4pm |
| 17-31 Oct | ES. Half-term children's holiday activities. Must book. £ | |

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 remaining performances of this summer. Booking can be done on the website at www.operahollandpark.com, by telephone on 0300 999 1000 or in person at the box office from 1-6pm Monday to Friday.

The turn of the screw by Britten July 1, 3, 5, 9, 10, 12 **8pm**
Norma by Bellini July 19, 23, 25, 31, August 2, 6, 8 **7.30pm**
Adriana Lecouvreur by Cilea July 24, 26, 30, August 1, 5, 7, 9 **7.30pm**

President Sir Angus Stirling

Chairman and Assistant Treasurer Jennie Kettlewell

Secretary Rhoddy Wood

Editor & Minutes Secretary Joy Puritz

Publicity Nigel Brockmann

Art Exhibition Organiser Gordon French

Talks Organiser Andy Walker

Assistant Treasurer Simon Lindesay-Bethune

Website Nicholas Hopkins

Kathleen Hall

www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

The Friends of Holland Park is registered as a Charity No. 281348

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.



The watercolour on the front cover by Primrose Braby, 'Holland Park in March', won the 'Spirit of Holland Park' prize in this year's art exhibition.

Gremlins in the Address List

Gremlins have scrambled the titles in the Friends' address lists, and though I am working at getting them back to their pristine state, I shall almost certainly miss some. So if you, Mrs Jane X, find your newsletter was addressed to the 'Count of Monte Carlo Jane X', my apologies. If you tell me by e-mail or phone, I will try to correct it for next time.

Rhoddy Wood

JOHN WILCOX & Co.

ESTATE AGENTS AND VALUERS



ABOUT HALF OF HOLLAND PARK IS COVERED BY
PARK, PAVEMENT & PUBLIC PROPERTY.

WE COVER THE REST.

WITH OVER 100 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE OF
HOLLAND PARK IN THE OFFICE,
WE PROVIDE THE ULTIMATE
IN LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

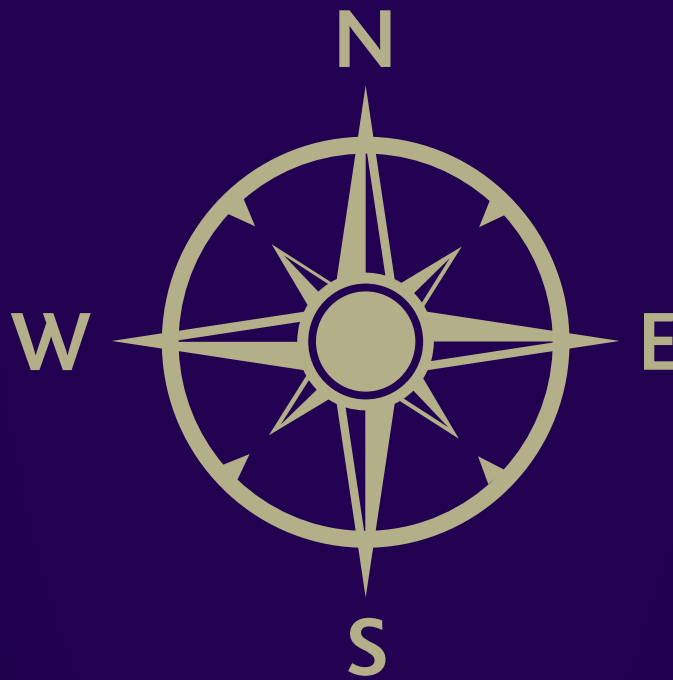
020 7602 2352

www.johnwilcox.co.uk

13 Addison Avenue W11 4QS

SALES | LETTINGS | ACQUISITIONS | INVESTMENT | DEVELOPMENT

360 DEGREES.



25 offices nationwide including 9 in Central London.

EXPERT PROPERTY ADVICE ACROSS THE COUNTRY FROM CARTER JONAS.

Residential ▪ Rural ▪ Commercial ▪ Planning & Development

To find out how Carter Jonas can help with your property needs, simply contact:

T: 020 7371 1111 E: hollandpark@carterjonas.co.uk

carterjonas.co.uk

**CARTER
JONAS**