

The Friends of Holland Park



Winter 2010



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www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org

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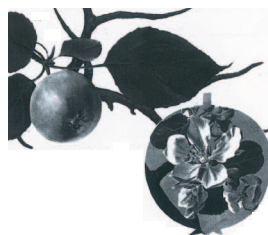
**Christmas Concert, Sunday, 5 December, 7.30pm
in the Orangery**

Avoid disappointment by booking now for our most popular event of the year, using the enclosed order form. To be on the safe side, please phone Rhoddy first on 020 7602 0304 to check that there are tickets left.

Spirit of Holland Park

The oil painting on the front cover of this issue is "Winter view with Holland House" by Krystyna Dankiewicz, and won the "Spirit of Holland Park" prize in our art exhibition this year.

Crab-Apple Jelly



CRAB APPLE,
Malus sylvestris.

The apples were plentiful this year and, at the time of writing, all orders to date have been filled or reserved, and there are a number of pots left over to go to the talk on Birds of Holland Park. Whether any will come back from that we can not foretell but you can always enquire from Rhoddy on 020 7602 0304. The number of pots made were limited not by the apples, but the jars available. Jars up to 12oz size with well fitting lids would be welcome for next year's production.

Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

All Friends are invited to this seasonal celebration, 11am to 1pm on 1 January, chez Rhoddy Wood, 21 Kenton Court, 356 Kensington High Street. My front door is between Jessops and Rogerson and between Addison and Holland Roads. Some Friends will come direct from the Bird Walk, while others might have slept late after seeing in the New Year, but all are equally welcome.

This is to remind you that you can still buy our Christmas cards. The new Holland Park design this year is of "The Alcove" as shown here, but there are a further three designs of the park shown in the brochure which you received with the autumn issue. If you have lost this, do ask for a replacement or check on www.mbcards.co.uk. We hold supplies of yet two more: "The Dutch Garden" and the 2009 "Collage", but "The Stable Yard" have all been bought by our good Friends, John Wilcox and Co. who wanted them for their company card.



The Alcove, Holland Park

There are other views from all over London.

All cards cost £7.50 for a pack of 10 except for some mixed Holland Park packs at £6.00. See our order form for details of quantity discounts.



Collage of Holland Park



The Dutch Garden, Holland Park

Linley Sambourne House



Daniel Robbins

**Thursday, 10 February 2011,
7pm in the Orangery**

As announced in the autumn newsletter, we are delighted that Daniel Robbins has kindly agreed to come to us again, this time to talk about 18 Stafford Terrace (Linley Sambourne House), a unique surviving example of a London late-Victorian town house. Home to the Punch cartoonist and illustrator Edward Linley Sambourne, the house retains much of its original decoration and furniture preserved by successive generations of the family. Given a fashionable artistic makeover by the Sambournes when they moved into the house in 1875, it also doubled as Linley's studio and workplace. This illustrated talk by The Royal Borough's Senior Curator tells the fascinating story of the Sambournes and their life at 18 Stafford Terrace, one of Kensington's hidden jewels.

Tickets for this event may be purchased using the enclosed order form at £12 each to include wine and canapés which will be served after the talk.





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Footpath Closure 1848

Readers may be aware that our constitution gives as one of the objectives of the Friends “to educate the public in the history, natural history and other aspects of the park.” In the pursuit of this objective, your committee has recently commissioned two different booklets. One is a history of the people who lived in Holland House by Carrie Starren who was head of the local studies section of the library in Hornton Street for a number of years and has several publications on the local area to her credit. The other is about the history of the gardens of Holland House by Sally Miller, a garden historian. Both cover the period from the building of the House up to the beginning of the Second World War. We hope that both will be printed towards the end of 2011.

Of the two subjects the history of the gardens has been much less written about and therefore requires more research. Members might be amused to read the following which Sally found at the London Metropolitan Archive (catalogue reference MJ/SP/1848/A/049). It relates to an application by the 4th Lord Holland to close a public right of way which ran along the south front of Holland House.

Part of a letter dated January 1848 from Mr Griffiths to Clerk of Clerkenwell Sessions:

“...regret that Lord Holland has no more respect for himself than to do that which his father declared he would not *Disgrace* himself with, viz, rob the public of their valued footway before Holland House! I have hopes, however, that such scheme will yet be defeated not only by the good sense of those who will have to determine the Question at the Sessions House but by that most fatal error failing to convene a *Vestry Meeting of the Inhabitants* as Lord Holland and his

‘aiders and abettors’ have been guilty of in this their second application to block-up the last of four footways through Holland Park. You, Sir, rendered good service in pointing out the legal error of the last application and I am sure you will not fail doing so in the present case; it really is a sin to stop up the old footway before Holland House, and great as is the Legal objection in this case, there is a still greater objection, an *objection to injustice*; Tell me not, Sir, that there is *anything* of Justice in this hateful system of locking up the Country, and every rural retreat where a ray of hope beams for the enjoyment of, at least, one moment’s ‘luxury’ of scenery and sweet air, in this our Babylon of Bricks, Dust and *foul* air; One of the Magistrates of your Court has assured me that Magistrates determine questions like these according to their conscience, I trust that in this case at least, they will do so, for then they must at once decide against such an application as that which the *late* Lord Holland declared he would never Disgrace himself with. Yours respectfully

Henry Dowell Griffiths, Bryanstone Square.”

Enclosed with the letter was a copy of “The Footpath” by Ebenezer Elliott, from “Splendid Village”:

“Path of the quiet field! that oft of yore
Call’d me at noon, on Shenstone’s page to pore;
Oh, poor man’s footpath! where, at evening’s close,
He stopp’d to pluck the woodbine and the rose...”
[continues]

Obviously an early activist in the right-to-roam camp.

[William Shenstone (1714-1761) was a poet but most notably creator of The Leasowes, a famous and much visited ferme ornée near Halesowen. S.M.]

Christmas Presents

In case you still have some Christmas presents to buy, we would especially like to remind you of two items available on our order form.

Firstly our two jigsaws, one of the Holland Park peacock and the other a view of the Kyoto Garden. Both are high-quality, finely-cut wooden puzzles of approximately 250 pieces measuring 360mm by 250mm. Made for us by Wentworth Puzzles, they contain unique “whimsy” pieces shaped to reflect the image theme, and will happily challenge you for hours. They are packaged in a smart shrink-wrapped box with the puzzle’s picture on the lid – ideal for

presents. They can be seen in full colour on our website.

Secondly is the book “Trees of Two Continents”. One of these continents is Holland Park, and seven walks are given within it, listing the trees and some shrubs passed. The text is simplified for beginners and there are plentiful illustrations. It is very handy for anyone wanting to learn the basic plants found in many London parks and gardens. Even many of the plants the author found in Melbourne can easily be seen here too.

For several years we have been working to obtain a pair of “wavy” benches to be donated to Holland Park and positioned one on each side of the steps up to Holland House. Finally, on 12 October they were delivered and installed on York stone bases.



New Dawn Furniture (www.newdawnfurniture.co.uk) from Emsworth in Hampshire was discovered at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2008. The company stood out at the time as apparently the only exhibitor prepared to offer a bespoke service. Designed to our specification by Sylvia Wingham and made for us by her husband Dennis, the thirteen-foot



benches have been made from FSC certified English oak sourced from Petworth Park. The intricate carvings of the Holland House “H” were designed and carved by Peter Clothier of Petworth.



Our photos, taken by Nicholas Hopkins, show a bench during installation by Dennis, an installed bench and the “H” carving.

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25 March – 4 April 2011, The Orangery, Holland Park

With winter fast approaching it is good to think about the Art Exhibition next spring. It will be open to the public from Saturday, 26 March at 1pm and daily from 10.30am – 6pm until Sunday, 3 April. The private views will be on Saturday, 26 March in the morning and Monday, 28 March in the evening; see below for times. We hope the weather will be good but please do encourage your friends to come anyway – it is so worthwhile. We want to raise funds for The Friends of Holland Park, gain favourable publicity and attract new mem-

bers. Most of all however we want your participation as artists or viewers, so do register *now* to enter the exhibition.

many artists will bring their own cards as before, and we have excellent floor-mounted stands on which to display them. This will leave the table-tops free for small pieces of pottery, stationery, bags or any craft works which the artists do not consider would sell for the minimum £50 stipulated for the main part of the exhibition. Please note that we do *not* accept two-dimensional paintings in this part of the exhibition. Space is limited and will be allocated at the discretion of the organisers, but we shall aim, as last year, for about a two-foot run for each. When enough artists have registered to fill the available space we shall take no more. Items will be taken away on purchase but some can be replaced with pieces left by the artists and stored under the tables, again at the discretion of the organisers. Artists who have registered for the main exhibition with the £10 entry fee will be entitled to ask for space in the mini-market without further payment. Those who have not entered the main exhibition are still welcome but need to register with a payment of £10 as well as being, or becoming, Friends. Goods in the mini-market will not be listed individually in the catalogue but the names of the artists will be.



photo by Joy Puritz

The order form enclosed in this newsletter can be used to register for the main exhibition, the mini-market or both, and should be sent to Rhoddy Wood. Why not do it now! Information is available on www.thefriendsofhollandpark.org or direct from Andy Walker at a.m.walker@virgin.net (preferably) or by post *with an s.a.e. (DL size)*.

Friends who are artists and artists who become Friends are invited to exhibit up to ten works in the main exhibition. Most of these are paintings, drawings or possibly photographs, and artists are allowed two works for hanging on the walls and up to eight unframed works for display in the portfolio stands. There is a size limit for both of 70cm by 100cm, including the mounts and frames. We also welcome *up to ten* three-dimensional objects such as ceramics, glassware and small sculptures. It is a happy occasion in a lovely setting and we aim to sell as many art works as possible while providing plenty of interest and enjoyment for our visitors.

Last year we introduced the new mini-market which was very successful, and we plan to repeat this. The exhibits will again be near the entrance, and artists will be able to sell small works for £40 and under. We hope that

Last year we introduced a different stewarding procedure which was very effective. We shall still need some help with this, so please indicate on the order form if you are willing to help, and when you would be available if called upon.

Last but by no means least, there will also be a poster competition through which we seek interest and publicity before and during the exhibition. Last year we printed extra copies and sold quite a lot to visitors to the exhibition. Entries for this competition must be with Andy Walker by 18 February at the latest. There is no monetary reward for the chosen poster but it will be displayed widely both in colour and in black and white and on the cover of the exhibition catalogue, so there will be plenty of acclaim. The objective is to create a poster which will attract the attention of potential buyers and other visitors, persuade them to visit the exhibition and perhaps to purchase a copy at the event. Posters will be judged according to these criteria, on originality and on the clarity of information given. A full briefing can be seen on the website under Events/Artex, or obtained from Andy Walker.

Art Exhibition Timetable



ADMINISTRATION

Fri 18 February	All entries for the poster competition must be with Andy by then. <i>5 free preview tickets will be sent to each artist in March if we have been informed of the preferred date.</i>
Wed 2 March	All exhibits details forms must be received by then to allow listing in the catalogue.
Fri 25 March 9am – noon	Artists deliver work to the Orangery, Holland Park. <i>All artists will be required to sign the catalogue to certify that the details shown are correct.</i>
Fri 25 March noon – 6pm	Works will be hung/displayed.

COLLECTION OF WORKS AFTER THE EXHIBITION

Sun 3 April 6.30 – 7.30pm	Buyers collect sold works; artists collect unsold work.
Mon 4 April 9 – 11am	Buyers collect sold works; artists collect unsold work.

EXHIBITION OPENING TIMES

Private Views:

Sat 26 March 10.30am – 12.30pm	Private View, entry by ticket. Price £3.
Mon 28 March 7.30 – 9.30pm	Private View, entry by ticket. Price £3.

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

Open to the public free of charge:

Sat 26 March 1– 6.30pm; Monday 28 March to Sunday 3 April 10.30am – 6.30pm

Artists are particularly asked NOT TO COLLECT THEIR WORKS BEFORE 6.30pm ON SUNDAY, 3 APRIL, as this would spoil the exhibition for others.

Subscription Reminder and Gift Aid

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

The Friends' subscription year is the calendar year, so now is the time to pay for 2011. Over half of you give us standing orders, payable on 1 January, and to these we say "thank you" and you need do no more. To the others, please use the order form and make your cheques payable to The Friends of Holland Park. Minimum dues are £12 or £9 for seniors. The only exception is that those who have

joined since 1 September have their membership valid for 2011.

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

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



From the Woodland Trust Nature Detectives website

Many people who can identify our commoner deciduous trees in summer by their flowers, fruit or leaves find it much harder once the leaves have fallen. Hazels grow their catkins, and alders retain their small woody cones, but for most others it is necessary to observe the shape of the twigs and buds; we hope the above illustrations will help. Most of these shown are British natives, though the lilac, horse chestnut and sycamore are all foreigners who have been with us for four hundred years or more. What these drawings cannot show, are additional identification guides such as the stickiness of the horse chestnut buds or the blackness of the common ash buds which distinguish them from the brown-budded manna ash's. For further enlightenment, do join Dr Alan Harrington's Tree Walk on Saturday, 18 December at 11am.

Wednesday, 30 March 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Orangery

Our Annual General Meeting gives our membership the chance to hear what your committee (the trustees) has been doing in its work on behalf of the Park, and to learn what it hopes to achieve in the current year. It is also a good opportunity for you to meet all the trustees in person and to tell us of your thoughts about, and concerns for, the Park. The meeting will be chaired by our president, Sir Angus Stirling.

Of course our constitution does require that we do a little formal business, such as elections to the committee, but most of the meeting is spent giving and receiving news and information about the Park and things which affect it and our enjoyment of it.

Over the years I have used various approaches to try to persuade a greater number of members to attend, but sadly it is still only a small proportion of our members who bother. This time I am simply

going to repeat a recently revived exhortation: "Your committee needs you! Please come!"

An added attraction is that the AGM is held during our annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery, and after the meeting is the perfect opportunity to view the exhibits – possibly even purchasing something – with a glass or two of wine. How can you refuse!

This is also the time to consider becoming a trustee of The Friends or offering to undertake some work on their behalf. We are always looking for new talent to bring energy and renewed enthusiasm to the committee. Please feel free to contact the chairman or secretary for more details and a confidential, no-obligation chat.

This announcement will be repeated in the spring newsletter when our financial report for 2009 will be included.

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So, which do you think are the most frequent birds in the park? On 28 October David Darrell-Lambert, who two years ago carried out a survey of the birds breeding in Holland Park, was our guest speaker for the Friends' autumn event in the Orangery. He was able to tell us that there were at least 28 species with up to 304 breeding pairs. For breeding to take place you need, of course, a pair of birds, good quality woodland, shrubs, bushes and hedges, good food sources and nesting places. Trees act like magnets to birds which will head for the green, using people's gardens as corridors on the way to the parks.

With beautiful photos and bird-song to go with them, David went through the birds of his survey in our park, starting with the "lowest density", No. 28 in his list which was the tawny owl – only one pair, and moving up to the "highest density" species, No. 1 in the list, the robin – 42 or 43 pairs. In between, from the lowest to the highest density, were: green woodpecker, starling, nuthatch, chiffchaff, great spotted woodpecker, jay, magpie, mistle thrush, blackcap, rose-ringed (or ring-necked) parakeet, mallard, goldfinch, long-tailed tit, carrion crow, coal tit, chaffinch, dunnock, goldcrest, stock dove, greenfinch, song thrush, great tit, blackbird, blue tit, wood pigeon and wren. David also suspected there might have been at least one breeding pair each of woodcock, sparrowhawk and moorhen. Our treasurer, and regular maintainer of the park's bird-feeders, David Jeffreys, was able to confirm that moorhens started breeding in the park after the survey was undertaken



Song thrush taken by David Darrell-Lambert

(as we know from his articles in our newsletter, including this issue; his article on woodcock in the spring issue this year is also worth another read). During his survey our speaker also caught sight of several migrant species such as jackdaws, turtle doves, swallows and lesser whitethroats.

David's advice on how to improve sites for birds included getting rid of the London plane tree, not indigenous and not ideal for birds to live in; plant dogs mercury (which woodcocks love); plant more holly for the safe roosting of birds; plant native bushes and trees such as hawthorn, blackthorn, rosehip, silver birch and alder. In our gardens we can encourage birds with nest boxes, feeders (preferably squirrel-proof) and bowls of water – all above ground level, of course.

Throughout the talk we were encouraged to ask questions, guess what the next bird on the list would be, and even have a stab at bird imitations; so, much fun was had, and afterwards Janice Miles swept in with her culinary delights.

Joy Puritz

P.S. to Moorhens and Mallards (Autumn Newsletter)



Moorhen

I am indebted to Michael Martyn-Johns, husband of the warden of the youth hostel in the park, who has confirmed the existence of moorhens in the hostel garden. The hawk-eyed of those of you who attended "Pimm's in the Park" might have spotted a pair on the pond,

and Michael tells me they have been resident there for the past two or three years. This year they produced two broods of chicks, but only one survived from the first, and the single chick from the second was taken by a cat. The survivor might explain the appearance of the occasional odd one out on Kyoto. In addition, a pair of mallard had two broods of eight ducklings. None of the first brood survived but mother left the site with all of the second at the beginning of August, which means they could not have been the ones first seen in July on Lord Holland's pond.

David Jeffreys


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"; unless otherwise stated they are free of charge, meeting in the Ecology Centre (Stable Yard). It is advisable to ring the Ecology Centre on 020 7938 8186 or e-mail ecology.centre@rbkc.gov.uk for details of any changes, for further events or, especially for the children's activities, to check whether they are fully booked or not.

Sat 4 Dec	BNW	
Sun 5 Dec	Christmas Concert: Tallis Chamber Choir.	In the Orangery, £15. 7.30pm
Sun 12 Dec	ES. Winter wildlife open day. At the wildlife area.	12-4pm
Sat 18 Dec	ES. Winter tree walk with Alan Harrington.	11am
Sat 1 Jan	BNW	
Sat 1 Jan	Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.	See page 2.
Sat 5 Feb	BNW	
Thur 10 Feb	"Linley Sambourne House", an illustrated talk by Daniel Robbins. In the Orangery, £12.	7pm
Sat 5 Mar	BNW	
25 Mar – 4 Apr	Annual Art Exhibition in the Orangery.	See page 6.
Wed 30 Mar	FHP Annual General Meeting. In the Orangery.	7.30pm
Sat 2 Apr	BNW	



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