



EARLY AUTUMN EVENING IN HOLLAND GARDEN

Holland Garden News

for local residents

Become a Friend and help this lovely park

2018/19 has been a busy year for Holland Garden. More and more local people are taking advantage of this fabulous park – from children playing after school and people walking their dogs at all times of the day, to those just looking for a quiet spot to sit and contemplate the world and enjoy their sandwiches at lunch time.

A lot of work goes on behind



Sweeping up gravel on the tennis courts

the scenes to ensure Holland Garden is looked after and

everyone who uses it can play their part too.

Who are the Friends?

The Friends of Holland Garden was set up in 2003 by local residents to promote the maintenance and development of Holland Garden for the benefit of the local community. We have a small committee who act as a point of focus and take feedback from residents and users of Holland Garden and liaise with various stakeholders in the community to improve the Garden for local people.

This can be as simple as letting London Borough Of Merton know if there are any issues that need to be fixed - dead trees, overgrown areas on footpaths, vandalism and graffiti. (We've had instances of all four in the

last 12 months!) We also organise groups of people to do specific jobs, for example open the gates every morning from April to the end of October. This helps to keep the garden secure at night.

We organise the tennis membership and liaise with Merton to ensure the courts are of a good playing quality. In recent years our gardening volunteers have improved the previously neglected flowerbeds and rockeries.



They work closely with idverde who are responsible for the

upkeep and general maintenance of the garden. Whilst we lobby for further investment and improvement to the Garden we do rely on

money from our local community so please join the Friends; it costs £5 for individuals or £10 for families

All the money we get is used to improve Holland Garden.

Thank you to those who already support us.

So what's new in 2018/19?

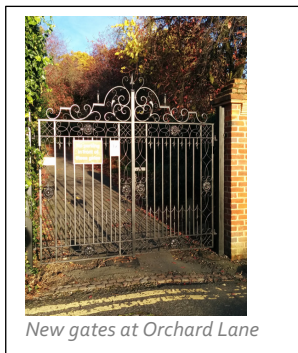
It's been a busy time in Holland Garden since our last newsletter. Here's our roll call of thanks to people in our community who make a difference, some of whom are featured in the following articles.

A big thanks to Martin and his team at idverde

Martin has been looking after Holland Garden for many years. He works for idverde, the contractor London Borough of Merton have outsourced parks and garden maintenance to. Martin keeps a watchful eye over Holland Garden and in the heat of the summer kept the beds watered so the plants survived for our enjoyment.

A new gate at Orchard Lane

Did you know that Holland Garden has three entrances?



New gates at Orchard Lane

- Cambridge Road opposite Hollymount School, the top of Pepys Road and corner with Cottenham Park Road and a third lesser well known gate at Orchard Lane. The wooden gates at Orchard Lane have been replaced by wrought iron

ones. Many thanks to Jonathan Turner, at London Borough of Merton who sourced the gates for us and arranged to get them adjusted to fit the opening. They look fabulous and also help with security at night, so people can see what is happening in the garden, when it is closed at night.

More colourful flower beds by the tennis courts

In 2018 our volunteers started to renovate the flower beds by the



tennis courts, clearing out the weeds, digging it over and adding lots of new plants. It was hard work! And as you can see there were lots of bags of rubbish.

FOHG funded over £200 of



perennials, chosen because they

attract butterflies and insects, and they flower year after year.



In 2019 we have paid for some replacement lavenders in the three beds at the top of the garden, and added some daphnes (Spring colour and perfume, once they grow a bit!) and irises for summer colour. 2020 should be fabulous! A great transformation for everyone to enjoy.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want to help with the gardening please contact Cherry at

cherry@friendsofhollandgarden.org.uk

Local children help Holland Garden

Green fingered gardeners from Hollymount

Despite the cold weather in December pupils from year 3 Hollymount School braved the cold and planted over 200 bulbs.



Their hard work was seen and enjoyed by everyone in Spring -



the lovely tulips and hyacinths in the circular beds by

Cambridge Road entrance.

The bulbs were donated by Taylors Bulbs of Holbeach and FOHG. We hope to do some more planting with Hollymount this Autumn.



Hollymount poster competition

As part of their community project, year 3 children at Hollymount designed posters to

encourage everyone to enjoy and look after Holland Garden. The posters were brilliant and the winners received some prizes (plant themed of course!) from the FOHG.

The winners were:

- 1st - Ben and Laurence;
- 2nd - Kyra and Holly-Mae;
- 3rd - Lily-Bo and Imaan



Dog poo - clear it up!

A big thanks to Joanie who lives nearby. She was so fed up with

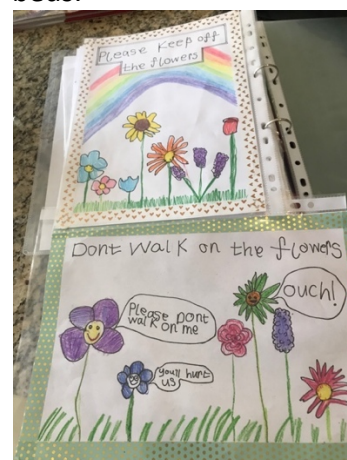
her little brothers stepping in dog poo when they played in Holland Garden that she did something about it. You can see her posters and dispenser for poo bags that she made by the Cambridge Road gate.



Now dog walkers have no excuse not to pick up after their dogs. If you have run out of poo bags then take one. Joanie's Mum kindly tops up the dispenser every week. (Sadly the dispenser has disappeared over the summer holidays...)

Posters from Joanie to help protect our lovely flower beds

Joanie also designed these fabulous posters for our flower beds.



Behind the scenes work to improve the Garden

Anyone for tennis?

So far there have been two big improvements for the 2019 tennis season and the usual work of our volunteers to remove weeds along the edges of the courts.

1) Bright white tennis court lines

The tennis court lines were re-painted at the start of this tennis season. Thanks to Iain for organising this with idverde.

2) New nets for the tennis courts... with "one careful owner"

Sadly the tennis nets were vandalised in August; someone made a number of random cuts in both nets, rendering them useless.



The good news is that we were able to get replacements quickly and they that have a rather interesting history.

The All England Tennis Club donates tennis nets to London Borough of Merton after Wimbledon for use in the borough. Idverde were able to supply us with two of these nets. So next time you hit a tennis ball across them, just

think who else might have played across them. Serena? Novak?

Save our hedges and trees

You will have noticed the orange fencing around the garden.

We have fenced off damaged and vulnerable areas around Holland Garden to give them time and help to recover. This is proving very difficult as people keep remove the fencing or force their way around it or under it. Please do your bit



to help. Leave the fencing in place,

avoid the protected areas and let nature do its thing.

Volunteers at work - Gate opening...

Local residents don't just help with the flower beds and rockery areas. From April to October they open Holland Garden each morning.



This helps to keep costs down, for the Council, otherwise the gates would be left open overnight.

Parks weren't locked at night a few years ago throughout Merton, which resulted in several parks, including Holland Garden being badly vandalised at night.

Friends groups across Merton stepped in and open the gates each morning, with the Council closing them at night. This meant that the parks were not so badly damaged, although sometimes people do still get in at night and damage Holland Garden.

For example, in 2017 several benches were torn from their foundations and dragged up onto the roof of the pavilion!



Hence the anti-climb paint...

Volunteers are responsible for opening the gates for

one week – starting on a Monday morning. Sign up now!

... And sweeping up gravel!

Are you handy with a sweeping brush? Then the tennis courts need your help. They sometimes get covered in gravel from the play area next door.

Gravel isn't great for the longevity of the tennis court surface or for the tennis players. Throwing gravel might seem like a great game but it's not a nice thing to do. Tennis members pay an annual membership fee and expect to play on a decent surface, so please help and make sure that grit isn't thrown onto the courts.

Looking after the pavilion



The pavilion needs a new coat of paint. Any volunteers out there?!

Sometimes it's as simple as giving the walls a quick wash when "local artists" have left



their muddy hand prints!!

However the anti climb paint marks do need painting over.



Clearing up after the storms of March 2019

We had a flurry of activity in

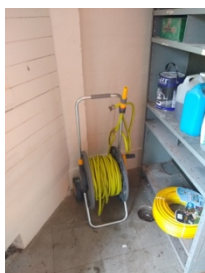


March after the gale force winds. Holland Garden didn't escape

unscathed. Fortunately Idverde were on hand to tie up the rose trees, although a couple of trees were felled – a birch tree and a large conifer.



Watering thirsty plants when it's hot and dry



Whilst summer 2019 wasn't as hot for as long as 2018 we still had to water our newly planted beds

on some days when there had been no substantial rain fall for

several weeks. To make things easier we have invested in a hose and have a special key for the standpipe at the top of the garden.

We do need some more helpers, especially in holiday periods to water the beds of perennials so they become more established and stronger.



Idverde - please give your feedback

Idverde are the contractor who are responsible for Merton's green spaces. They won the contract over two years ago and are reviewed on an annual basis. All the Friends Groups have been asked to give their feedback to London Borough of Merton on things like litter picking, emptying of bins, mowing of the grass, cutting of hedges and shrubs. Let us know what you think.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you want to help by becoming a Gate opener or just volunteer to help generally, then please e-mail Iain at

Iain@friendsofhollandgarden.org.uk

A plea to help protect the trees and flowers in Holland Garden and keep our dogs safe

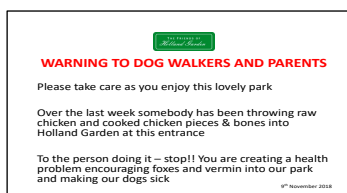
Holland Garden is a local oasis in this part of SW London. It's a great place to play and relax, but somehow we need to find a balance between people enjoying the park and causing long term damage – **see photos below**. A large volume of people use the garden each day and it is becoming damaged in some areas:– tree branches are snapped off, hedges broken and plants are being trampled by little feet that run around and play. Please help by sticking to the marked paths and encouraging children to play on the large grass areas.

Save the flowers

We know that younger children are curious about flowers but please can you ask your children not to pick the flowers - they are there for everyone to enjoy. They need to stay attached to their stems to survive and grow! Our volunteer gardeners have done such a great job to improve the herbaceous borders for the benefit of us all and it's disheartening to see flowers snapped off or squashed and thrown away.

Poisoned chicken left at Cambridge road entrance

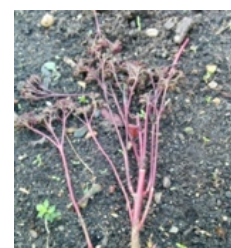
Last November Holland Garden was one of the places in the Wimbledon area where someone was leaving chicken bones and meat which was poisoned. This was a danger for everyone, particularly dogs and wildlife. We would ask that everyone remains vigilant, especially as the nights draw in. Report anyone acting suspiciously to the police. Please let us know if it happens again and we will put notices up to warn everyone.



The newly seeded wild flower beds last Spring as people take a short cut through the hedge



Branches were broken off this conifer and it became diseased and died. It cost over £200 to remove it which FOHG paid for



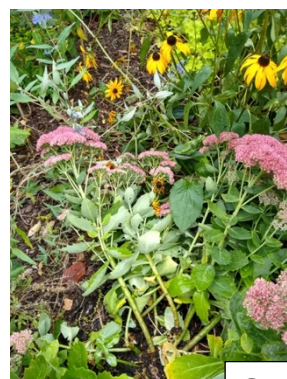
Enjoy the flowers but don't pick them.



This was once covered in plants but has been trampled



Gaps in the hedges get worse as people use them as short cuts



Snapped off plants



The tree by the tennis courts is now badly damaged

This local garden needs you

Finally, we need more help.

Anyone can join the Friends.
There is always work to be done
and we rely on volunteers.

Over the years Merton Council
have had less and less money
for parks and gardens, and as a

result the Friends of Holland
Garden have paid for several
projects. We rely on donations
to be able to

- Buy plants for the borders
- Pay for the refurbishment of all the benches
- Paint the pavilion

- Remove dead trees. The removal of the conifer alone cost £200.

...And people to help with gate opening, gardening, liaising with the Council and idverde and be on the committee.
Please join the Friends now.

2019/2020 Membership form

I/we would like to join the membership or renew my/our membership of the Friends of Holland Garden. I/we enclose my/our annual subscription (delete as appropriate) for the year ending 31 May 2020. Subscriptions are £5 per single person or £10 for a family (concessionary rates of £3 and £6 respectively). There is an additional £50 for tennis membership.

I/we wish to pay by: (tick relevant box)

annual standing order

☐

cheque

☐

cash

☐

You may find payment by standing order a convenient alternative to cheque or cash and it is easier for FOHG to administer. Please ask your bank to set an order in favour of: **The Friends of Holland Garden, Barclays Bank plc, sort code 20-96-89 account no. 60743585.**

If you wish to subscribe by cheque please make it payable to "The Friends of Holland Garden."

Name:	Standing order reference:
Address:	
Post code:	Contact tel number (optional):
Email:	

For cash and cheque subscriptions, please complete this form and return with your remittance to: Iain Carmichael, Hon Treasurer of the Friends, 6 Cambridge Road, London SW20 0SH.

If paying by standing order please notify Iain by e-mail, quoting the standing order reference, at iain@friendsofhollandgarden.org.uk

Thank you for supporting Holland Garden - a hidden gem in SW20