



THE FRIENDS OF HYDE PARK & KENSINGTON GARDENS

Reg Charity: 1168319

Annual Review 2021

Founded in 1991

www.friendshpkg.org.uk

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Sue Price, Chairman of the Friends, writes:

Sharp eyes will have spotted that this is no longer a Newsletter. We bowed to the (very friendly) pressure from members who have generously and consistently thanked us for our regularly emailed Newsletters.



We had been referring to the emails by all sorts of names, so from now on they will indeed be your Newsletters and are much more efficient at keeping you all up to date than a six-monthly or annually printed edition. This printed Annual Review will come to you yearly.

We have a few members for whom we lack an up to date email or postal address, and we apologise to them. If you are one of these and would like to be kept up to date, mostly on a fortnightly basis, please email us at contact@friendshpkg.org.uk.

ALL CHANGE

Among the trustees there have been some retirements - and some new appointments, one of whom is Jill Leuw, who has kindly helped put together this Review.

At the end of July, we were able to thank, in person, all those trustees who had retired during the previous 18 months and welcome the new trustees. It was delightful to be able to see each other again after so many months of Zooming.

Our membership secretary and trustee, Lynden Easton, has been rushed off her feet. As lockdowns and restrictions extended for longer than any of us would have predicted, it was clear that the parks provided respite for you all. So many new members joined, having seen our notices in the parks (which suddenly seem to be multiplying), that there are too

many to list in these pages. But we welcome you all and look forward to meeting you.

Sadly, too many of our longer standing members and great supporters passed away during this year. Some of their families wrote to us about how much the parks had meant to them, and extracts are published in this review.

FACE TO FACE AT LAST

We burst into action again in July with some events for members and I'm writing this on a sunny day, the autumn equinox, and looking forward to meeting more of you this afternoon at the nursery.

We have been able to organise these events thanks to the generosity of the members of staff of both Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

THE STARS OF THE SHOW

Our two beautiful parks will always be the stars. They have done so much for us all, given us space to exercise, fresh air, interesting things to look at and think about, and sometimes things to get a bit agitated about.

In my opinion the absence of traffic along North Carriage Drive and through traffic on South Carriage Drive have given these parts of Hyde Park very welcome respite from noise and pollution, and have made the whole park experience an improved one for all of us who visit and love them.

Keep on letting us know what you love, what you think and what worries you. We can't promise to solve this last, but we will do our best and we enjoy hearing from you all.



Visiting the Rooftop Garden in Hyde Park.



KENSINGTON GARDENS

Kensington Gardens Manager, Andy Williams, writes:

First, I am glad to report that this autumn the volume of visitors to Kensington Gardens has returned to pre-Covid levels following the easing of restrictions. The Learning Team has organised various walking tours (trees, bats etc). Details are on the Royal Parks website www.theroyalparks.org.

barrier to enjoying nature. Two schools are actively involved, with the aim of rolling the concept out to other schools soon.

All Covid-related restrictions at the Diana Memorial playground were removed earlier this year. The Royal Parks' landscape team is currently undertaking a 'play audit' to review priorities for refurbishment including, we hope, the galleon.

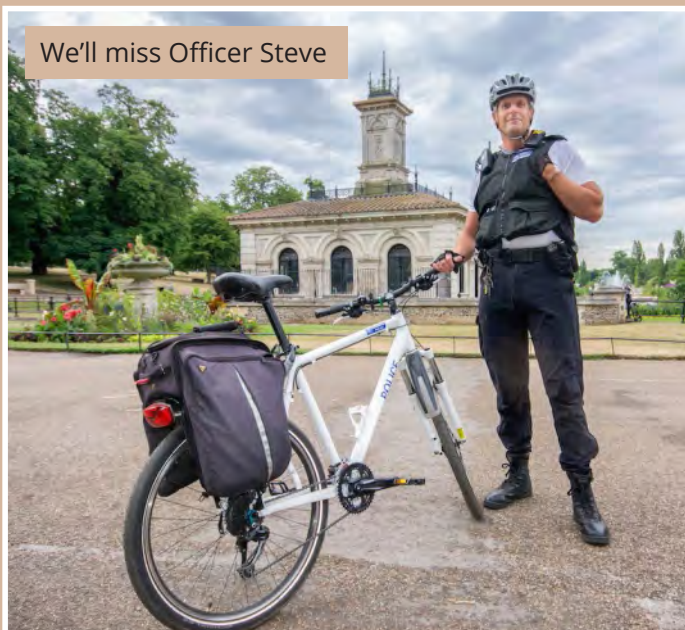
Chris Murphy has joined as the Allotment Coordinator managing the allotment volunteers. Overall fruit and vegetable yield has been good this year. The drop-in session on the 25 September was very popular. Other volunteers have been busy with a special effort to control creeping thistle across Buck Hill meadow. New bird boxes have been installed, and the shire horses have returned to Buck Hill for their last visit of the year. Additionally, a new



North Flower Walk

Steve Barnes, retired dedicated police officer for Kensington Gardens, visited us recently and was presented with a stunning panoramic photo of the Front Walk by the park management team, in recognition of his service to the parks.

Our Learning Team is supported by Theresa Short, Assistant Park Manager, with Nature Club and Forest School activities underway. The Forest School takes place within the Long Water enclosures, making use of the new dipping platform and concentrates on using nature as a key to unlocking children's learning potential where the traditional classroom may be a



We'll miss Officer Steve



Semi-tropical planting at the Italian Gardens

We have welcomed several large-scale filming events in recent months and the Van Gogh Alive event on the East Albert Lawn has been a real triumph. It was lovely to welcome back the Trapeze School, Carousel and the Scottish Country Dancers to the park this year – all adding to the rich experience for park visitors.

Cappuccino in the sun

corporate volunteer group lifted the canopies of the lime trees around the bandstand.

Biodiversity improvement plans for the Long Water are focused on improving habitat quality. Through the Mission Invertebrate project some funds are available for reed bed improvements around the lake margins.

The summer planting of borders produced spectacular displays of traditional plants mixed with tropical species at the Italian Gardens. Colour themes for this autumn's seasonal planting are yellow, white and blue, with russet tones for the South Flower Walk.

Colicci has been awarded a five-year extension to its catering concession for Kensington Gardens. It has consistently delivered very high scores from 'mystery diner' reviews and will undertake a series of refurbishment plans as part of its contract extension.





HYDE PARK

Hyde Park Manager, Jason Taylor, writes:

I hope that FHPKG members enjoyed the summer, brief though it was. The last 12 months have been very different for us in the park - as I'm sure they have been for all of us. I know that for those visiting parks across the country the value of all green spaces has been highlighted; they have been a lifeline for so many. Hyde Park has provided a much-needed break from the stresses of life for those who have been able to visit.

The damp summer has meant that the summer bedding looked exceptional this year. Phil and the Gardening Team's designs meant that different plants have come into prominence as the summer progressed, resulting in a constantly changing display. Looking at the bedding each month, it is sometimes difficult to believe that they are not being constantly replanted. The summer bedding, which has done so well this year, will be removed and replaced during October, and I look forward to seeing what delights they have in store for us over the winter months.



Alexandra Lodge

All of the designs are produced 12 months in advance of planting, to enable the Hyde Park Nursery to source seed, and grow the plants in time to be at their best when planted out.

The wet summer has also created an opportunity for increased maintenance of the Old Football Pitches, which are on the site of the Great Exhibition of 1851.

This has included increased fertilising and overseeding, both of which are usually difficult during the summer months, as they rely on soil moisture levels being high enough for the seed to grow. The pitches are going into the winter looking much stronger than they usually would.

Events have always been an important part of Hyde Park, and not having these for the last 18 months has been strange, to say the least. The last month has seen them return, in the form of Swim Serpentine and Race for Life, and in October we host The Royal Parks Half Marathon and the start of the Winter Wonderland build. Christmas will then officially begin in Hyde Park on November 19th when Winter Wonderland opens its doors, and the sound of carols and the smell of mulled wine will once again fill the air.

Next year the British Summertime Concerts will return, with Elton John, Pearl Jam and Duran Duran already announced.



It's a gas...

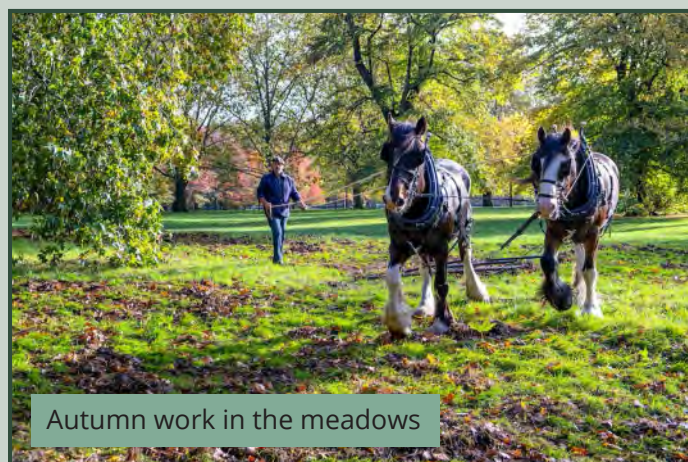


The extension of the trial to keep North Carriage Drive closed to traffic enabled us to support Westminster City Council in providing drive-through Covid testing for three days a week. After 18 months, this has recently finished, enabling us to hire it out as a site for film unit bases, bringing valuable income to the Royal Parks.

During the spring, when facilities still remained closed, we took the opportunity to refurbish the Serpentine Lido changing rooms. This was much needed and, even though the swimming operation had to be limited this summer, will result in much improved facilities for swimmers in the future. We also extended the café seating into the Lido Garden to give visitors more space, which was very well received.

Over the coming months there will be increased opportunities for people to volunteer in the park. Green Futures will bring 360 Year 9 volunteer students planting bulbs across the park. And there will be groups of up to 50 people regularly working with The Royal Parks Volunteering Team on a variety of projects including bulb planting, native hedge planting, bench restoration and scrub clearance.

The Hyde Park Management Plan has now been agreed by the Royal Parks Trustees. This is a ten-year management plan working towards a hundred year vision for Hyde Park. The document starts with a concise history of the park, then concentrates on individual areas, identifying opportunities for improvement and, finally, lists a number of projects to be carried out over the next ten years. The whole document focuses on sustainability, resilience, adaption to climate change, bio-diversity and improving the visitor experience, and it gives a really strong direction for management of the park. It was



Autumn work in the meadows

worked on by many people across the Royal Parks over the last two years, including the Hyde Park Team, but Nicholas Petridis, TRP's Landscape Management Officer really pulled the document together and made it happen, so my thanks go to him.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all members of the team which makes Hyde Park such a great place. People often think that these amazing green spaces just happen by themselves, but I can assure you that isn't the case. As well as the Hyde Park grounds maintenance, facilities management teams and toilet attendants who are in the park every day, there is a whole host of others who work in the park to make it what it is. These include volunteering, catering, events, biodiversity and police teams, as well as the administrative staff in the background. Then, of course, there are the volunteers and yourselves, the Friends of the park. It really is a team effort!

Finally, I'd like to thank Sue and all of the Friends for the support that you give to the parks. I hope that you all get to visit and enjoy the autumn colour in the parks soon.

A BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF KENSINGTON GARDENS

by *Pumpkin*:



Head girl Pumpkin

I am, of course, the senior member of the Allotment chicken flock, always at the top of the pecking order. When my agent told me that he had been approached by one of our volunteer members of staff requesting that I write this article I was far from eggstatic at this additional imposition on my valuable time and busy life. However, when I learnt it was for the Friends I relented as their interest in the welfare of my flock and me is much appreciated.

As you may be aware my seven colleagues and I live in smart accommodation in the Kensington Gardens Allotment. The Royal Parks team have recently renovated our premises and I heard them described by one of our staff as 'Cluckingham Palace' although I have no idea what they meant by that.

As senior members of the wildlife who inhabit and look after Kensington Gardens our flock has a responsibility to maintain high standards. As such, much of the day is spent in preening ourselves and each other to ensure we look our best for the many hundreds of visitors who come to the parks just to see us every week.

We get to recognise our more regular visitors. These range from the OCS staff who are dedicated to our welfare (and whom we remunerate in kind with delicious fresh eggs) to the volunteer gardeners at the allotment who maintain our immediate area and occasionally feed us select morsels and, most importantly, to our wide range of guests.

Although we would not demean ourselves by showing it, we get a lot of pleasure from small people running in, pulling their parents or friends, and rushing up to say hello to us and supplement our diet (although not bread please). There is an interesting issue here – although we can of course understand what humans are saying, for some reason they seem to have considerable difficulty in understanding what we say in response. However, this may be more an issue of age as we have perfectly effective communications with our youngest visitors.

We have heard a number of our guests talking about a television programme called 'The secret life of chickens'. It apparently showed that we are much more intelligent than most humans think we are (and of course more intelligent than the humans) and we have skills which are way beyond those of humans – like producing beautifully constructed eggs in a matter of hours. After that programme came out, we noticed that the humans treated us with even more respect than they did before, quite rightly.

Apart from preening ourselves and looking after our guests we are very busy with a range of other activities. These include eating, keeping up-to-date with international news, hutch-keeping duties, eating, security patrols (to make sure that no dastardly foxes get in), dust baths, eating, yoga and sleeping. It is an exhausting life.

We are well aware of the Covid pandemic which has been causing our guests such problems (we had similar issues with bird flu a few years ago). This has produced some strange results. There were times when we did not see any visitors at all – which was peaceful but rather boring - but then, once our guests were allowed back in, the numbers increased rapidly. We feel that we, alongside the rest of the park team, have made a significant contribution to the well-being of the community of which we are part and we are very proud of that.

We very much hope that, after reading my words, some of you may come and say hello to us. With this article you will see a picture of me so you can identify me, but as the most senior and elegant member of our flock my natural authority stands out in any event. It is no use trying to call me by name – some misguided volunteers gave me the absurd name of Pumpkin, clearly inappropriate for a bird of my breeding, standing and IQ and I do not answer to it.

My thanks to Trustee Simon Cox for scratching around for the text of this interview, ruffling no feathers in the process. SP



THE ROSE GARDEN: HOW PHIL NEWCOMBE WORKS HIS MAGIC

Jill Leuw, trustee, writes:



Phil with Autumn colour

A summer's day walk in Hyde Park is, for many of us, not complete without some time spent in the Rose Garden, near Hyde Park Corner. This year, the flower displays were simply stunning – and, for those of us who didn't lose our sense of smell to Covid, the bouquet was also gorgeous. How can it be so good? Who needs the congratulations?



August Lilies and Roses

Asking this question led me to meet Assistant Park Manager Phil Newcombe. He modestly started by telling me about the energy and talent in his team, which includes a number of apprentices, all keen to learn. Together, they are now designing their own planting schemes – an exciting new development. It soon transpired that there was a good deal more than the Rose Garden to talk about.

Phil trained with his Local Authority and has been involved in horticulture and landscape construction all

his working life. As a young gardener he was assigned to a project restoring the kitchen garden of a large estate near Ascot. 'It was like, he says, *'rebuilding a miniature Lost Garden of Heligan'*.

His most formative experience, however, was the time he spent in East Africa teaching bio-diversity and how to grow native crops, the cultivation of silk worms and weaving – skills to enhance livelihoods and leading to better employment possibilities.

Phil sees his job as being a steward of Hyde Park ensuring that its acres are kept to a high standard of

cleanliness and beauty. It is an opportunity, he says, to provide Londoners, particularly children, who have no access to green spaces, with a refuge where they can play, relax and enjoy nature.

With his interest in intensifying the role of bio-diversity, Phil is encouraging the spread of meadows within the park. Here the grass is mowed just twice a year and wild flowers and insects flourish. More tree planting and bulbs are also on his agenda.

Phil, who has held his present role for the past three years, never thought he would see the Serpentine Road busier than Oxford Street, as it has been during the pandemic.

He has just finished his Masters in Horticulture and received his degree from the aptly named Keith Weed, President of the RHS. To whom he has more than a passing resemblance.

Boy and Dolphin in the Rose Garden



POLICING THE PARKS

Joanna Clark, trustee, writes:

Many Friends members have contacted us via email over the past year expressing their concern regarding speeding cyclists (either solo or in groups) and the use of electric scooters and bikes. The speed limit in the park is 15mph. Only designated cycle paths are allowed for use, some of which are shared by pedestrians. The use of electric scooters or electric bikes is illegal under Royal Parks regulations.

As I write this I can confirm that the Parks Police team numbers are up to strength and are working very hard on educating the public about park regulations. The police have been undertaking frequent and regular campaigns addressing the problem of speeding cyclists, and electric bike and scooter users. They set up task forces which attend at peak times in different locations throughout the park where such traffic is at its busiest. They stop offenders and issue fines or caution notices. But, since we are not a police state,



No cycling here

the parks police have no desire or budget to make this a fully manned seven-day a week operation. Although recently we have had fewer tourists in the capital, it is often these visitors who are the offending cyclists and scooter users; they may be unaware of our regulations. The police have been actively using social media as a means of raising awareness and educating the public about the rules.

While this aspect is hugely important there are very many other essential areas for the parks police to manage. I feel great sympathy for them as they have so much to contend with. With the many types of large-scale demonstrations that have taken place recently, the police find themselves having to deal with, and sometimes to break up, increasing numbers of large gatherings. Many of these surface in the parks, often without warning.

Other new and time-consuming policing issues have included an increased volume of recurring graffiti, particularly around the Italian Gardens, and the park being used after-hours. Once the gates to Kensington Gardens had been locked some clusters of individuals find their way in, climbing the fences and socialising in the park after dark.

'A policeman's lot....'

The padlock didn't stop us



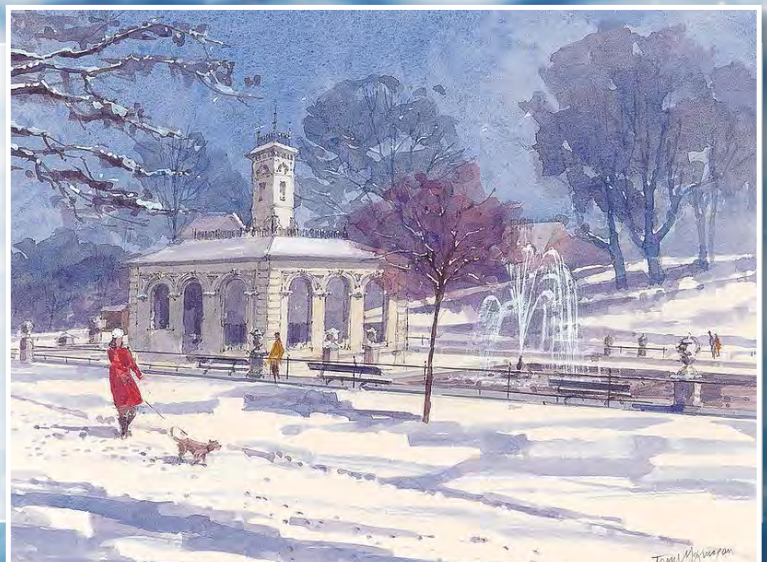
Mountbatten Christmas Cards

25% to the Friends would be welcome ...

This company produces snowy prints of original watercolour paintings of London, her parks and open spaces, including Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park.

There is an opportunity to support the Friends as a nominated charity, where 25% of the net proceeds will benefit us. Last year, we were fortunate in receiving a cheque for £70.

The link www.mountbattencards.com/shop-3 shows the cards that feature our parks.



EVENTS IN THE PARKS

Tina Higginson, trustee, writes:



Efficiency on wheels



Ready to go

During the last few months we have finally managed to organise events for the Friends once again, get-togethers that we have all missed so much. These events give us the opportunity to meet members, both longstanding and new, with a chance to be social. We have organised five events over the last four months.

We held two Butterfly and Moths Walks in June, which were both well attended. It was great to see the wild planting in the Rangers Lodge attracting butterflies, bees and moths - a good starting point for the walk.

In September our tree expert, Greg Packman, was kind enough to guide us around some special trees in Kensington Gardens. He admitted this park is his favourite, a royal park laid out with a grand overall plan, still largely intact today, and with wonderful avenues of trees. Our host, park manager Andy Williams, joined us and we were able to cool off afterwards in the pretty courtyard at his office.

Finally, our last event for September was a tour of Hyde Park Super Nursery where we learned from Mike Jones, Nursery Manager, the process of growing and nurturing almost 500,000 plants which he and his colleagues do each season to fill the flower beds in The Royal Parks and Buckingham Palace. We were given an inside view of all the hard work that takes place to provide our members and the public with such wonderful displays throughout the year in Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens and other Royal Parks.

This year, to control numbers attending events the Friends decided to operate a booking system through Eventbrite which has been sufficiently successful that we will now use this site for future bookings. However, we will offer a communication channel to those unable to use the internet by either a phone line or email for bookings. We look forward to meeting more of you at future events.

Watch out for future events through our Newsletter!



There are plenty of butterflies in here somewhere

The summer Hyde Park Plant sale in July is an amazing event and always popular, allowing our members to fill their gardens, patios and window boxes with incredible plants from the nursery for a fraction of the price one would normally pay. All of the funds raised through the plant and ticket sales were given to The Royal Parks charity. Many of you who attended brought along family and friends, some of whom have now also become members, increasing our numbers. It was a wonderful day with so many people arriving on different forms of transport, and leaving with them filled to the brim with plants.



Greg Packman keeps our attention

OBITUARIES

Anita Dowbiggin - 10 January 1921 – 15 January 2021

A member for 26 years, Anita spent her childhood in Argentina, returning to Queensgate School, aged 13 walking up to Kensington Gardens to play 'games'. During the war she joined the WAAF working at Bletchley, losing her first husband in the war after 3 months of marriage. In 1946 she married Sir Harold Atcherley, who had been a Japanese prisoner of war. Together, they travelled to Cairo, Damascus, Buenos Aires and Rio de Janeiro. After returning, they enjoyed family walks in the parks, sailing their boat on the Round Pond. Anita ran the League of Friends shop at the Brompton hospital for 20 years. She continued walks with friends and family, especially the Flower Walk. Married Richard Dowbiggin in 1999, sadly widowed in 2004. She had a very large extended family here and in Argentina and many friends; she adored family parties, playing bridge, cinema and theatre. She is much missed.



April Cornish - Died 29 July 2021

April joined in 2015. She was a knowledgeable horticulturist and, despite living in Kent, took great pleasure in attending events organised by FHPKG. One of the last she attended was the visit to the US Ambassador's Garden in Regents Park. Sadly, motor neurone disease began to limit her physical capabilities.



Even in the last months of her life she never lost her sense of humour. Originally trained as a nurse. In addition to horticulture, interests included medicine, music, art, walking, skiing and travel. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. We took April out for a trip to Whitstable, I love this photo, taken in 2017 because you can see her enjoying her fish 'n' chip lunch, wheelchair et al. *Tessa Singleton*.

Sir Nicholas Goodison - died July 2021

Member with his wife Judith since 1998. Loved finding a quiet spot to read or birdwatch. Felt our parks were crucial for London and should be conserved for their natural qualities. Walked their children round the Serpentine in their push chairs and then on their feet. Nicholas frequently rode his 1942 bicycle and was pleased to see families playing and picnicking there.

Patricia Burn - Died May 2020

A member for thirty years. Supported many local community projects. Active interest in planning and environmental issues. Loved gardening and nature and relished regular Sunday family walks through Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens.

Fiona Enthoven - Died October 2019

Member for the last twenty years, converting to Life Membership in 2015. Fiona spent many delightful hours enjoying the parks.

Daniel Hearsom - Died April 2021, aged 62

Some details about Daniel's very significant contribution to the Royal Parks can be seen on the FHPKG website under News: May and Beyond in the Parks.

Mr W. From - Died in late 2020

Of Ennismore Gardens, had been a member for 23 years and generously donated to the Friends during that time.

Christopher Gravatt - Died July 2020

Loved Hyde Park and took great pleasure in supporting the Friends for 17 years.

Professor Peter Grootenhuys - 1924-2019

He and wife Sara members since 1992. He enjoyed walking in Hyde Park and sitting in the Rose Garden which he watched being constructed in 1994. He and Sara once had the unique opportunity of descending into the dark interior of the Albert Memorial.

Cherry Jackson - died 3 July 20

Of Cheyne Place, a member since 2002

Eileen Vaughan Menzies - 3 Apr 1933 – 25 Apr 2021

Eileen, a member since 1994, wanted to support those who promoted our beautiful local and national heritage. Born in Budapest, her mother worked as a member of the British delegation assisting post-war Hungary. The family escaped to England during the second world war. In 1955, they moved to Nairobi, where Eileen met several African politicians striving towards independence by persuasion rather than violence. Returning in 1958, influenced by African aspirations, she worked with United Nations in New York. Back in England, she joined the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, serving for 20 years. She joined as a life member on her retirement and remained a dedicated member.

Eileen had widespread interests devoting herself to numerous charities. An enthusiastic concertgoer, member of art galleries, and theatregoer with many friends until infected by Covid-19 early in 2020.

She was our first Friends volunteer gardener and worked on her own in the South Flower Walk in Kensington Gardens. Her opinion of her gardening: *"As I am really very ignorant, I would tell myself a weed is only a plant in the wrong place and tend to leave some which more experienced might have removed. I try to pull up the root but this sometimes endangers the plants. Once the bedding plants are in full flower, reaching and identifying the weeds is a problem."*

Anne Johnston - 9 March 1931 – 10 December 2020

Anne was a constant supporter of our parks, having been an active and vibrant member of The Friends for 15 years. She loved the open air and enjoyed being close to nature and the beauty of our Parks. She would take enormous pleasure in meeting new people and



charming them with her stories and infectious enthusiasm for life. She was often accompanied by her cherished Alfie a Black Lab, known for his voracious appetite but also for his devotion to Anne.

Gordon Morris - died March 2020 aged 91

Member since 1993. Built up a surveying practice, 'Gordon & Co.' and was President of Paddington Rotary Club. In retirement walked regularly round the Serpentine photographing the flora and fauna, particularly the Italian Gardens, enjoying the fresh air and birdsong - a contrast to Paddington bustle.

These noisy birds are quite a recent addition to the Round Pond. As with the parakeets they are escapees from private collections and have been in England since the early C18. The first record of them is in Norfolk and they are still most common in East Anglia, but have spread all over the country.

They could be described as good value for money for a collector as their colouring gives you two birds for one body. At rest they are a collection of soft browns, pale grey and apricot but when they stretch their wings and fly off, behold they are transformed into monochromatic black and white birds. Unfortunately, the beautiful colours are paired with a plug ugly head of mean proportions. An ancient breed, as the name suggests, they were beloved of the Pharaohs and appear frequently in frescos, most famously in the beautiful piece in the British Museum, from the tomb of Nebamun. The artists sensibly elongate the beak a little to give a better appearance, but the geese are definitely the same. Egyptian geese belong to a prehistoric species and are the only branch of their particular genus to have survived. Their nearest relations are the more brightly coloured shelducks, who also visit our parks.

EGYPTIAN GEESE

Dimity Spiller writes:

They are native to sub-Saharan Africa and the Nile valley. This might explain their odd breeding season, as unlike European geese and ducks, they breed in the winter, which is partly why their babies' survival rate is so low. A second reason for the high level of infant mortality is poison. When too young to graze, the babies eat plankton and tiny organisms in the water. Anoxic conditions, that is a low oxygen content in the water, can produce botulinum toxin, which may be wonderful for faces but is deadly to goslings when it affects their food. Whole broods die, while the parents, who are grazing, are unaffected.

These have to be the noisiest birds; the female is endlessly nagging her mate or her babies at the top of her voice. This is quite funny when they are roosting as they like to sit on top of the trees that have been lopped. Indeed, their relentless yak yak is the easiest way to tell them apart, as they are similar coloured and the male only a little larger in size. Nests are usually made in large holes in a tree or, weirdly, in rabbit

burrows. This is not your usual duck/goose behaviour. They are also aggressively territorial and will attack drones that enter their airspace. However, more endearingly, they tend to mate for life, which is quite a long stint as they live between 15 to 25 years, if all goes well. Also, both parents are involved in bringing-up baby. There is an incredible snatch of film from a wildlife park in South Africa of an Egyptian goose doing the fake-lame-duck routine to distract a leopard from the tiny chicks, and being successful! How fantastically brave is that?

So next time you see them and think how odd they look, remember they once were worshipped and deserve your due respect.

Papa keeps an approaching dog at bay



MESSAGE FROM CHAUNCEY, THE DOG

(as relayed to us by member Bronwyn Gardiner-Jones)

Greetings, park-loving humans. My name is Chauncey Gardiner-Jones, and it's an honour to be featured in this illustrious publication.

My personal human, Bronwyn, introduced me to Kensington Gardens and Hyde Park when we moved here from America in 2016. I've been accompanying her on her daily walk through the parks ever since.

I find these perambulations most stimulating. In addition to checking my 'pee-mail' (as I like to call sniffing various horizontal and vertical surfaces in the parks), I often find myself in a reverie about my rags-to-riches story.

As a young pup, I was rescued from a high-kill shelter and spent a few months in foster care before consenting to be adopted by Bronwyn in 2010. We spent six happy years together in San Francisco before crossing the pond to London.

The day we touched down at Heathrow, I hastily unpacked my dog bed, food bowl and squeaky toys and demanded we visit Kensington Palace. I still have the photo of me posing in front of Queen Victoria. It was then I first realised how very far I'd come from the mean streets of Merced, California.

I'd love to bark at you until you give me a treat. Just look for me in the early mornings, walking around the Serpentine. I resemble a black Corgi, which is fitting, as I'm a huge fan of HM The Queen.



FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Our membership secretary is Trustee Lynden Easton, who also puts together our emailed Newsletters – a talented and energetic colleague. Lynden reports that our membership numbers continue to grow.

	4 October 2021	January 2021
Life members	199	178
Annual members	586	533
Total	785	711

IT'S A TEAM EFFORT

Getting the Annual Review into the shape you now see has been, for some of us, a learning exercise. Without the generosity of skilled input and time from a small group it wouldn't have become the readable and attractive looking publication in your hand.

Jill Leuw took on the role of editor and gathered material together, chased deadlines and wrote herself. As a new trustee this was quite a challenge.

Paul Shelley, our accredited photographer, provided the wonderful illustrations which lift all our publications and make them special.

Richard Price blew the dust off his publisher's hat, made sure the pieces read well, and put them into a standard form ready for typesetting.

Adrian Barnes from Edox the printers was generous to us, giving us a good deal and, despite it being a rather large job, worked very willingly to our tight deadline.

And most importantly what you are looking at is Steve Olive's work who, as a professional designer, made our Review look attractive. With a logical layout it shakes hands with the old newsletter yet moves us forward. He has been extremely generous (and patient) with us. We are immensely grateful.

Our thanks to them all.

Sue Price
Chairman

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