

**Save the Date!** We are very excited to announce that the Holly Lodge Centre has been nominated, along with The Victoria Foundation, as one of the major beneficiaries of the annual Richmond May Fair Ball which will take place on the Green in Richmond, Friday 6 May 2016. You will be hearing much more about the Ball from us in the New Year.

# stepping stones

Newsletter of the Holly Lodge Centre

[www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk](http://www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk)



Autumn 2015

## First open day in 7 years brings 2400 children and parents to the Centre's nature trail and Victorian heritage experiences

Forecasts had varied all week. Would it rain? Would wind blow everything away? Or would the sun make everything just perfect?

Finally, on Sunday 13 September – the date chosen months in advance – perfection was the order of the day for the Richmond Park/Holly Lodge Centre open day.

Nearly 2400 children and adults visited. They walked the newly-reopened nature trail, engaging in mini-beast hunts and pond dipping.

With paint and clay they became young artists in the Centre's main classroom.



In the Victorian kitchen garden they admired the abundant variety of heritage vegetables and visited Mr. and Mrs. Scarecrow.



Pill making was on the agenda in the Victorian pharmacy while parents and children alike looked – and bought! – hundreds of bric-a-brac items from toys to cosmetics, books to kitchen gear – raising significant funds to support the Centre's education activities.

They learned to write as the Victorians did and to wash their clothes Victorian fashion.





# Summer brings dozens of children, particularly those with special needs, to the Centre and to our special days at Isabella Plantation



## Funsense entertains Kingston Young Careers

A group of young careers from Kingston had a special treat during a day spent at the Centre in August. They participated in storytelling, games and other activities organized by Funsense, a theatre company that specializes in working with children of all abilities. With caring responsibilities for family members, these youngsters do not always have the opportunity to enjoy themselves, particularly in the great outdoors. The Funsense leaders transformed the Centre's classroom into a storytelling and craft tent and then led the children onto the nature trail where they discovered some of the unique features of this microcosm of Richmond Park.

**Isabella Open Days** Once again we took over a corner of the Isabella Plantation for two days in August and, in spite of a lot of rain the first day, the team of Centre volunteers welcomed and entertained children with art lessons, "frog spore" creation and, above all, storytelling by volunteers from the Richmond Library.



**Me Too & Co visits the Holly Lodge Centre in August.** Me Too & Co is a parent-led charity in Richmond and surrounding areas that helps children and young people with additional needs and their families. The additional needs include autistic spectrum disorder, Down's syndrome, hearing or visual impairment, cerebral palsy and developmental delay. This group of youngsters also enjoyed activities organised by Funsense Theatre.



# Dame Esther Rantzen entertains and inspires at a Wimbledon tea in support of the Holly Lodge Centre

Centre supporters heard a heart-warming – and at times, amusing -- presentation by Dame Esther Rantzen at a tea party in Hotel du Vin in Wimbledon on 28 September. Many knew of Esther's work in setting up **ChildLine**, the free 24-hour counselling service for children which has been replicated in many other countries and has helped millions of children and young people deal with issues such as child abuse, bullying, mental illness, parental separation or divorce, pregnancy and substance misuse. Fewer people were aware of **Silver Line**, a charity spearheaded by Esther for older people who often feel lonely, abused and in need of support. Anecdotes told by Esther of how older people and children have been helped by these two charities brought a tear to many eyes.

Esther began her talk with stories from her early years at the BBC. She and Adrian Mills, a Patron of the Centre, shared amusing incidents of their work together on "That's Life". Esther's speech climaxed



with her recalling funny incidents of her life in showbiz with friends such as Joan Collins, before she left the tea to rush to the Grosvenor House Hotel for the ITV Pride of Britain awards, while guests, still laughing, piled into their cream cakes and scones. It was a very pleasant afternoon, which raised £1000 for the Centre.

## First "annual" Holly Lodge Centre quiz night a big success – fun for all, funds for the Centre

Centre patrons and television personalities Adrian Mills (master of ceremonies) and Ben Shephard (quiz master) hosted the Centre's first "annual" quiz night in late October. It was a big success – raising funds for the Centre, telling many new friends about us and making sure all simply had a good time.

The Kings House School in Richmond kindly turned over its assembly room for the event and the Park Brewery contributed one of its boutique ales that was sold to quizzers over the evening helping to bring the total of funds raised by the event to £1500. The evening was attended by an enthusiastic Richmond Mayor, Martin Seymour, and his team.

Fast paced with questions on history, geography, music and other topics the quiz challenged even the best quizzers' minds – and totally puzzled some bystanders.

Overall winners for the evening, the Worples Wizards proved to be aptly named – with an amazing 111 points out of a total of 130 they were truly wizards!

We're already looking forward to next year's quiz.



**The Worples Wizards with their winning champagne and (rear, left) master of ceremonies, Adrian Mills and quiz master Ben Shephard.**



**The quizzers – great ambiance! Adrian and Ben: "Are you sure that's the right answer???"**

### Test your knowledge

Quizzers were asked ... (Answers below)

- A. When was the Holly Lodge Centre opened - 1992, 1993 or 1994?
- B. Who has been the Charity's Royal Patron since 2007 – the Princess Royal, the Countess of Wessex or Princess Alexandra?
- C. Approximately how many visitors came to the Centre during the last financial year - 5,000, 6,000 or 7,000?
- D. Who officially opened the expanded Nature Trail in June 2015 - Sir David Attenborough, Samantha Bond or Sir Trevor McDonald?
- E. Dr Pat Ealey, who helped to found the Centre, was awarded which honour in 2012 - CBE, MBE or OBE?

**A. 1994; B. Princess Alexandra; C. 6000; D. Sir David Attenborough; E. MBE**



## Southwest London DFAS donates £500 to support the Centre's art activities

The Southwest London Decorative and Fine Arts Society (SWLDFAS) has generously donated £500 to the Holly Lodge Centre to cover the costs of art materials for the Centre's special needs art group for the next year.

In early July, members of the Young Arts Committee of the SWLDFAS visited the Holly Lodge Centre for a tour and to present the cheque. The gift and visit were organised by Centre volunteer Su Hume, a member of the SWLDFAS.



Centre manager Anna King and Trustee June Beedham accept the cheque from the Young Arts Committee of the SWLDFAS.



Students and teachers at the Rowan School in Wimbledon have long been enthusiastic about their visits to the Centre. So on 9 September a class of 6-year-olds came to Centre for day of Victorian learning activities and donated 3 desks to the Centre for our education programs.



The special needs garden team showing off their prized plants.

## Annual Holly Lodge Centre Christmas Concert, Friday 11 December

- St Mary Magdalene Church, Church Walk, Richmond TW9 1SN, 7 pm, Friday 11 December
- Sheen Gate Choir, childrens' choirs of the Newland House School in Twickenham and the Bedelsford special needs school in Kingston
- £20 for adults, £5 for children under 16
- Hosted by Centre patron and TV personality Adrian Mills
- Includes wine and mince pie
- A great way to begin the Christmas season.

[Click here to book the Christmas Concert](#)

### CHRISTMAS CONCERT

7pm Friday 11 December 2015

with Sheen Gate Choir and the choirs of Newland House School and Bedelsford School

Hosted by Adrian Mills  
with readings by celebrities

St Mary Magdalene Church, Richmond

supporting  
The Holly Lodge Centre  
a special place for learning

Tickets £20 (children under 16 £5)  
including wine and mince pies

To book [www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk](http://www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk)  
or call 020 8940 8730

The Holly Lodge Centre  
Holly Lodge  
Richmond Park TW10 5HS

Reg Charity 1076741



## Victorian garden continues it winning ways

2015 was another banner year for the Centre's Victorian kitchen garden and particularly for its team of volunteers and special needs gardeners. All the hard work paid off with four awards over the summer.

- Petersham Horticultural Society Summer Show - tied for Best Produce Basket
- Britain in Bloom Special Schools Gold
- London in Bloom 'In Your Neighbourhood' - Outstanding
- Richmond in Bloom Best Environmental Garden - Gold and Overall Category winners.



# Links you can use

## Walks in the Park

Throughout the year, the Friends of Richmond Park offer a series of walks in the Park. Click here for details: [Friends Walks](#)



## Visit Park Brewery

The Park Brewery in Kingston kindly donated one of their ales to the Holly Lodge Centre Quiz Night and also brought a team of quizzers to the event. If you would like to know more about this Richmond Park neighbor – and its beers and ales named for places in the park, [click here](#).



KINGSTON upon THAMES

## Kew Gardens Christmas illuminations

Once again, Kew Gardens lights up for the Christmas season, 25 November to 2 January. Tickets now on sale – [Click here for information and tickets](#).



## Strawberry Hill Ice Rink Returns

Strawberry Hill House in Twickenham opens its outdoor ice rink from 5 December to 24 January. Skate with Horace Walpole's castle as a beautiful backdrop. [Click here to book](#).



## Hampton Court Palace Celebrates Christmas

Two events help bring the Christmas season alive at Hampton Court Palace. The palace's first ever **Festive Fayre** in the courtyards: stock up the pantry for Christmas: 4-6 December. And the Palace's **Elizabethan Christmas**, 27 December to 3 January, 11:30 – 15:00.



## Father Christmas comes to Ham House

December weekends will come alive as Father Christmas welcomes children to his grotto at Ham House. No bookings required but for details, [click here](#).



## Be a part of something special

# Support the Holly Lodge Centre ... here's how

**Financial support:** The easiest way to make a financial contribution is to click on the following link to the Holly Lodge Centre page on the secure Charity Checkout site and select one of the options available. Please complete the Gift Aid declaration if you are a UK tax payer. Click here: <https://www.charitycheckout.co.uk/1076741/Donate>



Or you can print and complete the form below and send it to:

Anna King, Centre Manager  
The Holly Lodge Centre  
Richmond Park, Richmond TW10 5HS

**Sponsorship:** Many possibilities. Each year at our summer "Richmond Park Reflections" we need to hire a piano for about £500; we'd love a sponsor. The annual Christmas concert needs a sponsor for the printed programme. We badly need some good quality video of Centre activities for which a sponsor would be welcome. If sponsorship interests you – and we'd certainly want to give you credit -- please contact us at [hlicevents@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk](mailto:hlicevents@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk)

## Standing order mandate -- Account to be debited

Account name	_____	
Account Number	_____	Sort Code _____
Bank Name	_____	
Beneficiary details	The Holly Lodge Centre Barclays PLC Richmond upon Thames Sort Code 20-72-17 Account number 20565172	
Payment details	Amount of Payment	£ _____
Date of First Payment	____ / ____ / ____	
Amount in words	_____	
Frequency of payment (monthly, quarterly, annual)	_____	
Signature	_____	
	Date	____ / ____ / ____



## Links You Can Use



The Holly Lodge Centre	<a href="http://www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk/">http://www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk/</a>
Donate to the Holly Lodge Centre	<a href="https://www.charitycheckout.co.uk/1076741/Donate">https://www.charitycheckout.co.uk/1076741/Donate</a>
The Friends of Richmond Park	<a href="http://www.frp.org.uk/">http://www.frp.org.uk/</a>
The Royal Parks	<a href="http://www.royalparks.org.uk/">http://www.royalparks.org.uk/</a>

We encourage your input about this newsletter as well as about the Holly Lodge Centre itself. Please e-mail us at [tbrosnahan@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk](mailto:tbrosnahan@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk). Also if you know of others who would want to know more about the Centre, please forward this newsletter to them or send us their e-mail addresses so that we can add them to our newsletter list. Thank you.