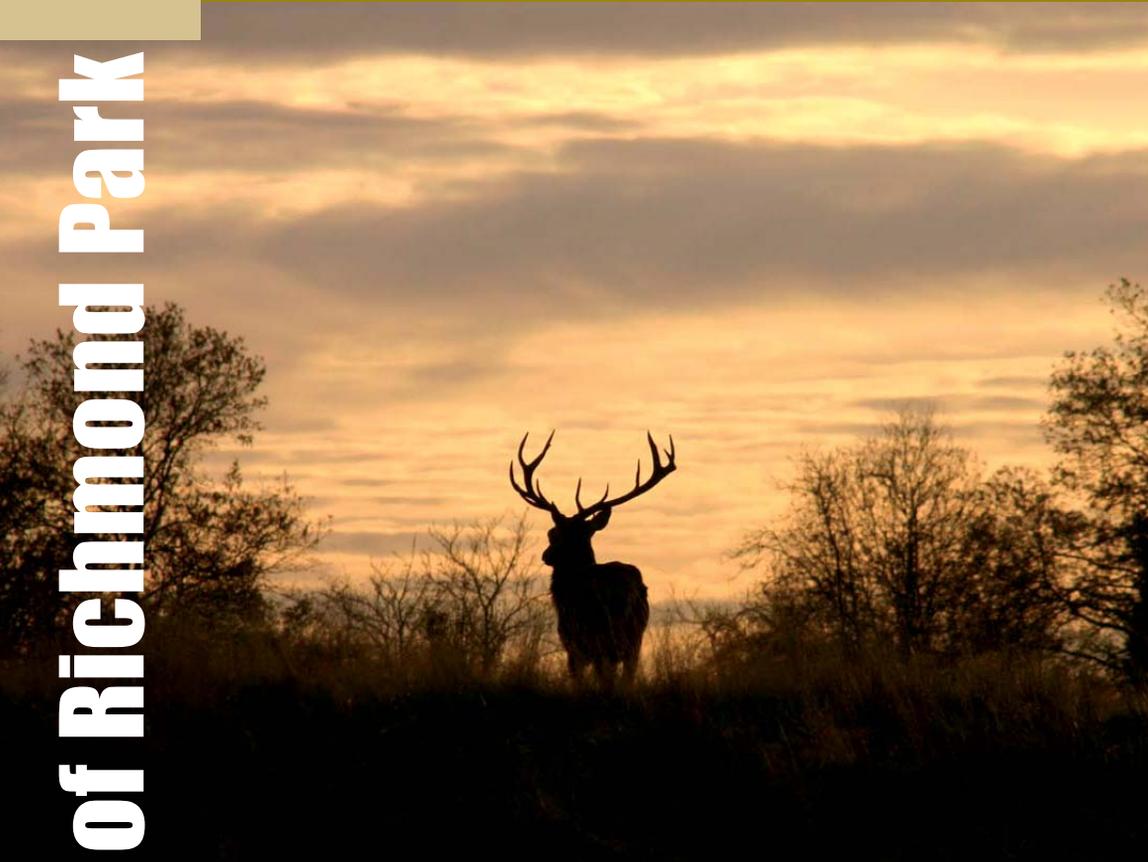


The Friends of Richmond Park



Stags observed with their harems
Impact of drought on Richmond Park
Eighteenth century home of headkeepers
French visit underlines need to protect the Park

Emphasis on ecology

Wildlife and ecology continue to be central to the newsletter – see the features on the effects of drought on the Park and on the Park's deer herds.

History gets a look in too, following last issue's article on Pembroke Lodge and the Russell family, with an account of the history of Holly Lodge (formerly Bog Lodge).

For the next issue we would also like to include a children's page. Any other ideas are always welcome.

Alison Donaldson

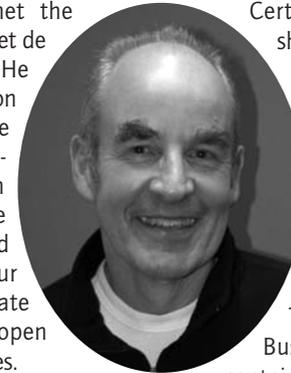
alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk



Friends of Richmond Park and Richmond in Europe Association enjoy a walk in the forest guided by members of Les Amis de la Foret de Fontainebleau

French visit reveals similar concerns on both sides of Channel

About 18 months ago I met the President of "Les amis de la foret de Fontainebleau" in Richmond. He was here as part of a delegation from Fontainebleau in France celebrating Richmond's twinning with that town and with Konstanz in Germany. We quickly discovered that we had a lot in common: both our organisations were passionate about the wonderful wild open spaces close to our capital cities.



The Forest of Fontainebleau (about 40 minutes by train from Paris) is many times larger than our own Richmond Park but it faces similar problems. "Les Amis" see their mission as, first and foremost, to protect their Forest. We see ours, also first and foremost, to protect our Park.

Two of their three main objectives are the same as ours: to recognise and preserve their Forest's wonderful biodiversity and, secondly, to enable as many as want to to enjoy its wild open spaces while not compromising this biodiversity. Their third objective is different from ours: the sustainable management of their trees. The Forest of Fontainebleau is a rich source of timber which has been exploited over the years and now needs management rather than exploitation. Perhaps the equivalent for us is the management of the deer herd?

Some of us learned all of this first hand in September when a group of about 17 of our members went to Fontainebleau. We were given a splendid welcome, met the Deputy Mayor, toured the chateau, ate (and drank) very well and walked in the Forest. The members of Les Amis are much like ours and I expect there are many, many thousands of others throughout Europe who feel the same way about preserving the special places in or close to big cities.

Certainly these sentiments were shared by Dame Jennifer Jenkins 10 year ago. Some of you may remember that she was commissioned by the Department of National Heritage to review the conditions and management of all the Royal Parks. Her last report, published 10 years ago in 1996, was on Richmond and Bushy Parks. I think the words contained in her covering letter to the Secretary of State, are worth repeating in full:

"London is the only major capital city fortunate enough to have two historic parks where deer are free to roam as they have done for centuries. Despite being surrounded by suburbia, Richmond and Bushy Parks retain a sense of unspoilt countryside with ancient forest trees, stretches of bracken and fine grassland, ponds and streams interspersed with exceptionally beautiful woodland gardens. Conserving the fragile ecology of these parks and safeguarding their deer from the effects of increasing traffic, at the same time providing for public enjoyment, present special problems ..."

She went on to express her concerns about "reductions of public funding of recent years" and concluded that the neglect of the Parks "would be a national tragedy". Sad to say the reductions in public funding have continued.

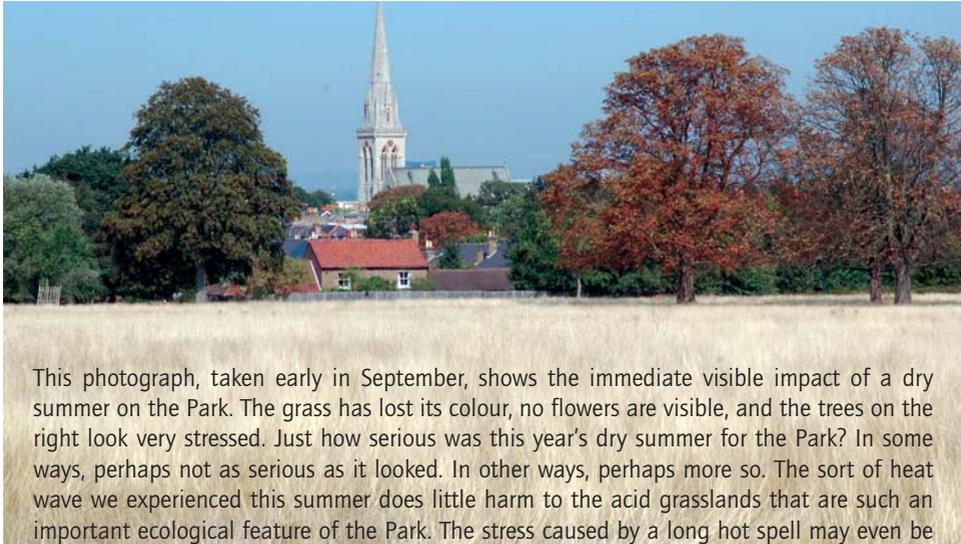
In conclusion our role as a pressure group fighting for the Park must continue drawing strength from our new friendship with Les Amis in Fontainebleau. We are not alone!

John Collier

johncollier@blueyonder.co.uk

The impact of drought in Richmond Park

Text and photos by Piers Eley



This photograph, taken early in September, shows the immediate visible impact of a dry summer on the Park. The grass has lost its colour, no flowers are visible, and the trees on the right look very stressed. Just how serious was this year's dry summer for the Park? In some ways, perhaps not as serious as it looked. In other ways, perhaps more so. The sort of heat wave we experienced this summer does little harm to the acid grasslands that are such an important ecological feature of the Park. The stress caused by a long hot spell may even be beneficial. Some of the invasive species that seed themselves all too easily in the sandy mounds of our anthills, when these are moist, wither and die when the moisture evaporates, enabling the tougher species associated with our purer 'acid grasslands' to increase in their stead. The reduced height and strength of the more ordinary grasses may also allow more light and space for lower and rarer species.

A hot spell can also help the formation and ripening of seeds. Take a look at the Hawthorns in the Park this autumn. Being shallow-rooted, they may have looked miserable at the height of the drought, but, provided they have well-formed buds before their leaves start to fall, should not have suffered any long-term effects. They have more berries on them now than I ever remember seeing.



There is no doubt however, that some plants and trees did suffer from the drought, as did some of our precious wildlife. Butterflies were hard hit when many of the flowers in the grasses died back or went to seed just when they were most needed. Butterflies, while enjoying the sunshine, also need nectar from flowers and some moisture to survive. Small/Essex Skippers, Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers were rapidly reduced in number by the heat of July this year. It remains to be seen how the state of their caterpillars' food plants at this critical time will have affected future numbers.

The myriad of beetles and other insects that live in the grasslands will also have been affected, as will the small mammals, birds and other creatures that feed on them. Stonechats, which usually breed well in the Park, moved elsewhere in July and are only just now returning. As we move up the food chain, Little Owls also seem to have suffered but, surprisingly to me, Kestrels seem not to have been so badly affected.



The Horse Chestnuts in our picture which, like Hawthorns, are relatively shallow-rooting, have to cope with attack from a leaf-mining caterpillar and a fungus. The additional effects of drought do not help their long-term prospects

Fortunately, few of the other large trees in the Park appear to have been unduly affected. The Oaks did suffer from an unusually high infestation of the caterpillars of the Oak Tortrix and other moths during their first coat of leaves, and from a high level of Oak leaf blight, a fungal infection, affecting their second coat, but are otherwise in good shape. The Spanish or Sweet Chestnuts, by contrast, seem to have had a very good year. The explanation is that these deeper-rooting trees are not dependent on surface moisture for their sustenance. They take this from far deeper underground, tapping into the underlying aquifers provided by gravel mounds deposited at the end of the Ice Age, which give the Park its distinctive hilly character.

Prolonged drought lasting over several summers, such as we experienced towards the end of the 20th century, result in the draining of water from these gravel hills and causes damage to these great trees, that are particularly sensitive to long-term changes in the water table. If you look at the tall oaks in some of the 19th century plantations, such as Barn Oaks, Sawpits or Conduit Wood, you may be able to see areas of dead branches in

the tops of some of these, which first appeared during that earlier and more serious drought. To counter the growing likelihood of our facing further such extended spells of drought, we have started to dig out new ponds in some of the ditches that run across the tops of these hills.

With global warming, we seem to get less of the steady soaking rain of former years and in its place more cloudbursts, the water from which rushes across the dry ground, into ditches and out of the Park. The idea of these new ponds is to slow down this flow of water and give it time to soak into the gravel aquifers underneath. We hope this may help to preserve our great trees and all the creatures that live in them, and enable them to continue to contribute to the pleasure and interest of future generations.

Below is one such a pond, excavated at our suggestion last year, across a ditch that flows down from Oak Lodge drive.

Piers Eley
Chairman, Richmond Park Wildlife Group



Eighteenth century home of headkeepers

by David McDowall

Following the piece about Pembroke Lodge in our last issue, we continue with the theme of the Park's buildings. Over the next few issues, David McDowall will discuss the story of some of the houses either still standing or which once stood in Richmond Park. In this issue, he begins with Holly Lodge.

No one knows for sure when the original kernel of Holly Lodge was built, but it was probably in the 1730s. Of course it did not have that name but was known after its first recorded inhabitant as Cooper's Lodge. Joseph Cooper probably was the Head Keeper and it seems that, after his death in 1735, he was succeeded by his son,

Augustine. Both now lie in the Petersham churchyard.

Augustine must have retired some years before his own death in 1775, for the lodge acquired the name Lucas' Lodge in 1771. This was John Lucas, who seems to have been the son of a Lucas recruited from Thomas Pelham, the Duke of Newcastle's estate at Claremont, earlier in the century. (Charles Bridgeman and William Kent, the two great landscape gardeners of their day, made Claremont a landmark garden in the English landscape movement. Horace Walpole said of Kent's work at Claremont, "Kent is Kentissime there." So if you have not been there, go.) The



Holly Lodge as it looks today

younger Lucas was renowned for his prowess in tackling poachers with his quarterstaff, a much needed skill in the Park at that time.

John Lucas died in 1795 and since his own son, John, was too young to succeed him, he was succeeded by his deputy, James Sawyer, who moved into the Lodge, while young John Lucas went to Sawyer's old home, the deputy keeper's house, White Ash Lodge. When James Sawyer himself died in 1825, he was succeeded by his second son, James.

(James' elder brother, John, had gone to farm at Ham Manor Farm, possibly as a result of his mother's connections, since she came from Ham. Ham Manor Farm stood on Ham Street, a medieval farmhouse – criminally demolished in 1958 – where now the dilapidated shopping parade stands. Opposite, now Greycourt School, was the cow shed.)

The last Sawyer to occupy Holly Lodge retired in 1904. By this time the Head Keeper's Lodge had become known as Bog Lodge,

possibly informally but certainly formally for most of the twentieth century. The name is a commentary on the landscape nearby. For the land north of the Lodge and running down to the Park wall between Bog Gate and East Sheen Gate was notoriously boggy, even after the largely successful draining of the Park carried out in 1856.

It was only in the twentieth century that the lodge became a much larger complex, with offices and barns to house the Park's managerial staff, the police, mechanical equipment and horses. During the 1990s Bog Lodge was renamed Holly Lodge, because the former name was deemed inappropriate for schoolchildren visiting the new children's centre there.

David McDowall's guidebook was revised, enlarged and re-published in April 2006 as "Richmond Park: The Walker's Guide", available from most local bookshops at £6.99 or direct from him at www.davidmcdowall.com.



*Holly (Bog) Lodge in the eighteenth century
(reproduced courtesy of the Richmond Local Studies Collection)*

Stags observed with their harems

by Michael Davison

When Park Manager Simon Richards led a deer walk for the Friends in October, who could have guessed that he would have rehearsed the deer so well that they would appear on cue at his bidding? Yet this was the

two young challengers. Sometimes, said Simon, a braver youngster may stand his ground and lock horns with the older stag: as we watched, there came a clash of horns on the slope just below us.



impression given to a crowd of some 50 walkers, drawn by the chance to experience some of the sights and sounds of the "rut", or annual mating ritual.

Within a few moments of starting the walk, a large herd of red deer crossed our path. Of course, Simon just happened to have started talking about the way stags round up their harem of hinds and spend up to six weeks guarding them against rival males. The process lasts up to six weeks, during which the stags can lose up to a third of their bodyweight. Usually the younger stags run off when challenged: right on cue, we watched a splendidly antlered stag see off

Would the fallow deer play their part, too, in Simon's "illustrated lecture"? Of course. As we crossed the rugby ground below Sheen Cross, a large herd of fallow were in clear view on our left, males and females intermingled: as Simon pointed out, fallow bucks are less aggressive in sorting out their mating partners, and tend to wait until the does come to them. The size of the herd in view also gave Simon the chance to point out their wide range of colouring, from pale brown, almost white, to near-black.

The deer parade wasn't over yet. As we rounded Holly Lodge, a few isolated red deer wandered up to illustrate how first-year stags

sport little more than a bump on their heads, then in the second year a "V" of spikes, and only in their third and fourth years attaining the characteristic multi-tined antlers [a "tine" is "any of the sharp terminal branches of a deer's antler" – Ed.]. These antlers are shed every year, prompting a questioner to ask: Why do we never find any lying about? A bit of a mystery here, apparently: Simon, during nine years in the Park, has only once come across a shed antler.

Simon's walk was the welcome follow-up to a talk on deer which he had given to the Friends in Richmond a month earlier. On this occasion Simon started by surveying the history of deer parks in general. Richmond Park is so identified today with its deer that it is easy to imagine that it must have been one of England's oldest royal hunting parks. In fact, it is one of the newer parks, dating only from Charles I's enclosure in 1637. By comparison, some of Britain's deer parks go back to Domesday Book times, and by the 13th century they were numbered in thousands. All London's parks were originally deer parks, and the herd at Greenwich was recorded as early as 1426. Deer roamed Hyde Park until 1833.

"Red deer for sport and fallow for food" was the principle behind early stocking of Richmond Park. Fortnightly stag hunts took place in the 18th century, the deer being herded in pens on the land now occupied by the golf course. The deer population has fluctuated over the years: in 1803 there are known to have been 60 reds and 800 fallows, by 1830 the total population rose to 2000, and by 1900 it had fallen to 1000. The Second World War

dramatically reduced the deer population to under 100 (did some of them end up in the army canteens?), and after the war there was considerable re-stocking, mainly by descendants from the 600-year-old herd at Greenwich.

Today the population is kept to around 680, the most that the Park's natural resources can support. This level is maintained by selective culling among females in November and males in February – not only of the older animals, as some suppose, but of a chosen number within each age group, to maintain a healthy balanced herd. Simon showed photographs of a fallow buck and red stag that have recently been introduced from Gunton Park in Norfolk to reinvigorate the herd, and appear to have settled in well.

Deer are not the only animals that have lived in Richmond Park. New Forest Ponies were introduced in 1934, but disappeared with the war, and many local people remember the time when sheep grazed around Sheen Cross. For the future, Simon said we may see cattle introduced into the Park, as an experiment to improve the quality of the grassland, which is only nibbled by the deer, and so help to recolonise wild plants.

Simon Richards points out plaque donated by The Friends



Summarising the history of a park that has endured for more than 400 years, Simon Richards was happy to predict that – "with everyone's support and understanding" – it will endure for another 400. By such means as his lecture and guided walk, Simon is doing a wonderful job in increasing understanding among today's Park users.

Michael Davison leads walks for The Friends

We have received a number of emails in response to the Chairman's piece in the last issue about the proposed new cycle/pedestrian path between Petersham and Ham Gate. The path has since received planning permission from Richmond Council, so we are now looking to make sure it causes as little damage to the Park as possible.

Diversity of views about new path

From Andrew Fleming-Williams:

I can understand that you are concerned about over-use of the Park for through cyclists, but in the case of this proposition I feel it is less of a problem than elsewhere and could actually be something of an asset as the centre section of this route gets very muddy and thus becomes widened by pedestrians and buggies during any normally wet winter (assuming we ever get one of those again). The path would at least provide safe passage for them as well as offering cyclists a designated route thereby keeping them off the grass. I regularly cycle round the Park and I am aware of the difficulties between cyclists - and especially the faster ones - and pedestrians. Do the Friends have a view on how these two different and occasionally conflicting interests can be reconciled?

From David Callow:

We have just joined FRP and received the summer newsletter. We live near the Park and my wife and I often walk or cycle in it, as well as visiting the Park by car and driving through it. I agree with everything you say in the article. The Park is essentially a precious wilderness area with a number of paths and a few roads going through it. It is NOT a part of any "route" from one place to another, but is a destination in itself. There are enough paths (and roads) already within the Park, and sufficient ways of getting from any one

gate to any other, whether on foot, cycle or (for those gates available to them) by car.

If people wish to WALK over ground where there are no made paths, they can easily do so. Indeed it is one of the many charms of the Park that it is always possible to walk "off the beaten track" (literally). However I see no reason (speaking as a cyclist) for new cycle paths to be introduced. There is sufficient variety of possible route, as well as of landscape, to make any cyclist happy.

There is some problem with speeding and inconsiderate cyclists annoying pedestrians on the shared paths. Perhaps it would be good if the police were occasionally able to give warnings to such people. However I have also noticed that some of the fastest cyclists tend to stick to the tarred roads, while most of those using the shared paths are slower and usually considerate.

By the way, congratulations on the Newsletter which is a very informative and enjoyable read.

From Jenine Langrish:

I read with dismay your article on cycling in the Summer 2006 Friends of Richmond Park newsletter. It appears to confirm something that I have feared before - namely that there is an anti-cycling agenda at the heart of the Friends' policy. I am not myself a regular cyclist, but I commend those who are.

Surely, this misses the broader picture. Given growing concerns about global warming, which will inevitably impact the Park and its flora and fauna, surely people should be encouraged to leave their cars at home and cycle or walk. Whilst there will always be a few cycling enthusiasts who will brave the traffic and cycle on the streets, the vast majority of the population will only get on their bikes if there are attractive & safe routes on which to cycle. The Royal Parks

could play a significant role in enabling Transport for London and organisations like Sustrans to develop a network of attractive and accessible cycling routes around London, such as the proposed Greenways.

You say that a new cycle path will increase the urbanisation of the Park, but surely the impact of cyclists is minimal compared to that of motorists, who are likely to go faster and who are more likely to be in collisions with wildlife. This is before any account is taken of the pollution from their exhaust pipes.

You say that an increase in cycling will increase erosion. Surely this is only the case if adequate paths are not provided for cyclists. Again your point about conflict with pedestrians just underlines the need for dedicated separate cycling and walking paths, not for the avoidance of cycle lanes.

Personally I believe that if London is to remain a pleasant place to live, we should be focusing on ways to reduce pollution & congestion. Perhaps instead of opposing cycling in the Park you should direct your campaigning against motor traffic in the park, not cyclists. If you continue to campaign against cycling I shall feel obliged to cancel my membership of the Friends, as your views do not reflect mine, and I

therefore feel that you have no right to claim to speak on my behalf.

Theme park trend

From A. Earle:

It seems our lovely Park is being turned into a theme park slowly. I have been using it since a child - for nearly 60 years - and we used to discover our own things in the Park. It was discovery and learning about nature which was far better done ourselves and with our family rather than being spoon fed and organised in groups, and events. The boards showing wildlife I think are ruining the lovely landscape of the Park. Why not a room in Pembroke Lodge for these things? (On that subject what about better quality food - it's such a lovely setting it deserves better). The Park is a bit of lovely peaceful country on the edge of London and should remain that way.

Grateful to lady who saved my life

From Lionel Aloe:

Five years ago, I was in Richmond Park and suddenly had a cardiac arrest, having been running for 20 odd years, going to Richmond Park every Sunday for my long runs. I have never been able to thank the lady who saved my life, giving me mouth to mouth resuscitation for 25 minutes.

The Friends' committee responds on the question of the new path

The Friends of Richmond Park exists to protect the Park "as a place of natural beauty and public pleasure" and is definitely NOT anti-cycling. Many of our Committee members are cyclists. We debated the issue of this new proposed path thoroughly and decided in the end - by a clear majority but not unanimously - that there was no pressing need for a new path. We also agree that cyclists do less damage to the Park than cars, but that was not the issue in the case of this proposal, which was not to replace a road, but to build a new path in an otherwise relatively tranquil and unspoilt part of the Park.

Now that the new path has planning permission, we will be meeting the Royal Parks Agency to discuss whether the detailed plans can be amended in some way to address our specific concerns - e.g. about erosion, and conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

Duathlon – fun for participants, tranquillity in rest of Park

by Ron Crompton

The second London Duathlon took place in Richmond Park on Sunday, 17 September. In fact there were two races – a “challenge” (i.e. serious) race in the morning, of 9 km run, 22 km cycle, and another 5 km run, and a “fun” race in the afternoon of approximately half the distance (“fun” is obviously a relative term here). The cycling was one or two circuits of the outer Park roads, the run made use of the inner roads through the centre of the Park past Pen Ponds.

The route was difficult, particularly with the number of hills involved, and, while some made it with ease, others were struggling toward the end. The winning time in the challenge race was 1 hour 20 minutes, but some took as long as 3 hours.

In total, 5,000 people took part, with staggered starts for groups of participants, the challenge race starting between 09.00 to 11.00 and the fun race in the afternoon –

quite a feat of organisation. It was amusing to see each group, when they were called forward, dash with their bikes from the bike park to the start line – it is difficult to wheel a bike at speed with any style!

The atmosphere was very good natured. Although there were many serious cyclists and runners, they gave way to each other gracefully and joked with the onlookers. But I was disappointed that, unlike the London Marathon, there were few participants in fancy dress. One Elvis lookalike was cheered everywhere, perhaps because he was such a rare beast.

The whole event seems to an outsider to have been well organised, and restricted in its impact on the Park. Parking for the event was in the Golf Course (closed for the day), the start/finish was on the small field between Roehampton Gate and Beverley Brook, the commercial stalls were in the Roehampton



Background noise vanishes for one day

Gate car park, and all the cycling and running was on the roads not the grass. I am told that the organisers cleared up after themselves well. The deer were not affected; they knew enough to stay well away from the proceedings.

Peace in rest of Park

Away from the event, the Park was glorious and tranquil. There were no cars, and fewer people than normal. But the biggest difference was the lack of noise. The Duathlon's PA system could not be heard beyond the immediate area, and the sound of the runners and cyclists did not carry far. It made me realise just how pervasive is the background noise of cars driving through the Park.

All in all, it was real tranquillity, and unlike any other day of the year. Maybe we should have more days of “Peace in the Park”.

Tranquillity was less in evidence on the Tamsin Trail, where recreational cyclists displaced from the roads added to the usual numbers. Fortunately, the fewer walkers, particularly families, meant that there did not

Should there be more car-free days?

We received the following email from member Steve McDonnell, who was in the Park on duathlon day and has a suggestion:

What a great day it was yesterday with the Park closed to cars. Are there any plans, emails to write or petitions to sign to make this more frequent? Central Park in New York used to be close to cars one Sunday a month (that was 20 years ago). It would be great to have about 6 days (1st Sunday of the month in summer) without cars.

seem to be any serious conflicts, but it highlighted the extent to which cyclists can take over the Trail when in sufficient numbers. It is a problem to which no-one has yet found a solution.

Should the Friends support similar events in future? Yes, provided they are limited in number (maybe 2-3 a year) and restricted in impact, as was the Duathlon. There is enough of the Park for events like this to take place on the more “urban” parts of the Park, and if it provides a more tranquil experience for the rest of us elsewhere in the Park, all the better.

Open Weekend reveals British charcoal being made in Park

by Douglas Reynolds

I was surprised when I visited the Richmond Park Open Weekend in July to find a charcoal maker, Simon Levy. Charcoal is produced from the wood obtained from coppicing, which is the regular cutting of timber from stumps of trees which then grow again. Coppicing can also clear an area so that it is not overgrown, and plants and trees can survive as well as animals and insects. The wood is carefully placed in a kiln, which is sealed so that little air gets in and then burning continues for 28 hours.

Nearly all the charcoal sold in Britain is imported, but British charcoal in conjunction with coppicing should be encouraged. (Recently I passed a shop in Richmond Road which had a board outside stating “Richmond Park charcoal”.)

I was not surprised to hear Simon Levy say that he feels very lucky to work in Richmond Park.

Douglas Reynolds is a Vice President of the Friends

New courses in 2007

We are planning to repeat and extend our successful series of courses in 2007. The first three sessions will probably still be on the general theme of birdwatching, but we hope to develop them to include topics such as general wildlife, deer, trees, butterflies, invertebrates, and so on. Most sessions will be on the third Saturday of the month with the first, on 20 January, covering "Water Birds". The format will be the same - 30 minutes indoors at Pembroke Lodge followed by a two-hour walk – but we shall be restricting them to members. Please ring 020 8878 5835 to book your place.

Copies of Richmond Park Magazine sought

from member Jeff Bull:

I recently spotted, quite by chance in the Linnean Society (www.linnean.org) library, a 1937 "History of Richmond Park, with an account of its birds and animals", written by one C L Collette (local resident), and published by Sidgwick and Jackson in an edition of only 600 copies; it contains a number of black & white photos of the time, aerial as well as ground level. It occurred to me that that this book would be complemented excellently by a set of the Richmond Park Magazine, sadly no longer being produced. Does anyone have either a full set (ideally) which they would be happy to donate to the LinnSoc, or ad hoc issues from which I could assemble the fullest possible run?

Park opening times in winter

There were a lot of comments on the recent membership survey about where to look for the opening and closing times of the Park. The Park is open from 7am in the summer and 7.30 in the winter, and closes at dusk all year round. In practice, this means that it will open at 7.30am and close at 4pm every day from 6 November to 25 December. You can

now find this information on the RPA website (www.royalparks.gov.uk) or go to our website (www.frp.org.uk) and follow the link.

New Police Inspector for the Park

The Friends would like to welcome the Park's new Police Inspector, Mark Foden, who will be based at Holly Lodge. We look forward to working with him and hope that he is able to develop a long-term relationship with the Park.

Keep sending in survey forms

A big thank you to all those who have returned their membership surveys. Although it is now past the closing date for the prize draw, please do not stop sending us your completed forms, as your views are very important to ensure that we meet your needs. Results of the survey will be reported in a future bulletin or newsletter.

Subscriptions

Subscription rates are £6 individuals, £10 households, £10 societies. If you have any queries about membership, please give Sheila Hamilton a ring on 020 8876 623. Otherwise, email Sheila at: sheila.hamilton@forp.org.uk

Friends Committee

Chairman: John Collier; Vice Presidents: Richard Carter, Douglas Reynolds, David Thorpe

Other committee members: Brian Baker (Hon. Secretary); Alison Donaldson (Newsletter Editor); Sheila Hamilton (Hon. Membership Secretary); John Waller (Hon. Treasurer); Ann Brown; Peter Burrows-Smith; Ron Crompton; Jackie Grimes; Joanna Jackson; John Reptsch; Karen Rockell; Mary Thorpe

Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

Events

16 November, 12.30 for 1pm:
Pembroke Lodge

Friends' annual lunch with Justine Greening MP. To book a ticket (£26.50), please use the booking form in our Autumn Bulletin, or ring Brian Baker on 020 8546 3109.

20 January, 10 am:
meet at Pembroke Lodge

"Water birds" is the topic of our first course in 2007, to include free talk and walk. For booking and further details, please ring 020 8878 5835. Members only.

Walks

Anybody is welcome to join these free guided walks. There is usually a choice between a wildlife and a history option. Most walks begin at 10am and finish around midday at the car park or gate shown. Please keep dogs under control.

For further details, ring Peter Burrows-Smith, 020 8878 4022.

Date	Starting and finishing at
2 Dec, 10 am	Kingston Gate car park (incl. Christmas nature option)
26 Dec, 10 am	Roehampton Gate car park
6 Jan, 10 am	Sheen Gate car park (incl. winter wildfowl option)
3 Feb, 10am	Ladderstile Gate (incl. veteran trees option)
3 Mar, 10am nature trail	Roehampton Gate car park (incl. Pen Ponds nature trail option)
7 Apr, 10am	Robin Hood Gate car park (incl. skylarks option)
28 Apr, <u>8am</u>	Pembroke Lodge (spring birdsong special)

Front cover: stag by Joanna Jackson

Joanna, who wrote about photography in our summer 2006 issue, explains just how important timing and light were for this picture: "A wonderful sky provided the backdrop with this stag walking off into the sunset. I had to run to my right so that the stag was in between the trees, and the antlers were silhouetted against the sky."

Back cover: Purple Moor Grass and Rushes in Richmond Park by Alison Donaldson



Contacting the Friends of Richmond Park

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www.frp.org.uk