

# The Friends of Richmond Park



Skylark conservation – a success story

Cover for small birds – enclosures explained

Celebrating 250 years of right to walk in the Park

Tackling obesity without spoiling the Park

For some time we have been wanting to do an issue with a special focus on birds. This spring we have succeeded, with two fascinating features respectively on skylarks and on those enclosures you have probably noticed in the Park, which are designed to offer small birds cover and nesting opportunities.

We are therefore particularly grateful to Tony Drakeford for his bird photos adorning both front and back cover. The Reed Bunting on the back is just the kind of bird that has benefited from the enclosures.

There is plenty more in this issue too. For example, another member has written about what the Park means to him – if you would like to contribute to our “My Richmond Park” page, please contact one of the editors, at [alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk](mailto:alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk) or [marilyn.mason@virgin.net](mailto:marilyn.mason@virgin.net)

### Photos

*Front cover:* Mandarin Duck (male)

*Back cover:* Reed Bunting (male)

both by Tony Drakeford

## Sparkling performance from Orange Tree founder

by Michael Davison

Members attending the annual lunch of the Friends of Richmond Park on 15 November 2007 were treated to a sparkling performance from guest speaker Sam Walters, artistic director of the Orange Tree Theatre in Richmond. The lunch was held, for the second year running, in the handsome Belvedere Room of Pembroke Lodge by courtesy of owner Daniel Hearsom, who was among the guests.

Spurning the offered microphone, Sam Walters strode up and down in front of his audience, telling the Orange Tree story with the humour and histrionic skill to be expected from one who trained as an actor before he turned to directing.

Opening in 1971 over a pub near Richmond Station and moving in 1991 to a new theatre across the road, the Orange Tree has earned a national reputation for its in-the-round presentation of new plays and neglected classics.

At the end of Sam’s talk, questions and compliments came thick and fast from the audience, but eventually past Friends chairman John Collier (deputising for Ron Crompton, said to be paddling a canoe on the Amazon) had to bring the proceedings to an end. There was warm applause for Sam Walters, for Daniel Hearsom whose staff had conjured up our delicious lunch, and for Sheila Hamilton and Brian Baker, whose organisation had produced such a smooth-running and enjoyable occasion.



Michael Davison

## Tackling obesity without spoiling the Park

Obesity is a preoccupation of government at the moment, and it is a serious problem. However, such a preoccupation can lead to ill-considered solutions and schemes.

One such scheme was the proposal by The Royal Parks for a 5-a-side football complex (complete with floodlighting) in Regent’s Park, to be built and operated by a commercial developer on the site of a small wood. The proposal was finally defeated in January by a vociferous campaign led by the Friends of Regent’s Park.

The 5-a-side scheme was discussed at a recent meeting between the Chairmen of the Friends of the Royal Parks (Richmond, Regent’s, St James’s, Hyde Park, etc) and the Minister, Margaret Hodge. Her view was that such facilities are vital for tackling obesity, and if the Royal Parks are the easiest place to have them because there is readily available space, so be it.

I made the point that the Royal Parks, and particularly the outlying parks (Richmond, Bushy, Greenwich) can provide a different kind of healthy outdoor activity through walking, observing nature, and generally being in the fresh air, which is as valuable as sport, and indeed more valuable because it is so difficult to find in London. The

Friends of Richmond Park promotes this kind of activity.

Our photography competition, which started last year, encourages 7-18 year olds to get out into the Park, observe and photograph what they see. The father of one of last year’s winners recently told me how his son, who had previously refused to go near the Park, had been inspired by the competition to go into the Park to take photos in all weathers; his son continues to do so today, long after the competition is over.

Similarly, our education programme is working with schools to help pupils understand and enjoy the Park. We are in the midst of a trial programme with one school, which we intend to offer to others in due course (n.b. if you want to help us in our education programme, please contact Karen Rockell at [forp@sky.com](mailto:forp@sky.com)).

We want to do more. I keep coming across older people who say that when they were young they spent hour after hour in the Park, exploring and enjoying it, on their own and with friends. We want to encourage more people of all ages to do it, to help tackle the obesity problem.

At the same time, we will continue to resist ill-considered schemes which would turn the Park into an urban sports ground, and destroy the different and special experience the Park can give to young people.



Ron Crompton  
[ron.crompton@frp.org.uk](mailto:ron.crompton@frp.org.uk)  
 143 Palewell Park  
 London SW14 8JJ

Friends on birdwatching walk in spring



Alison Donaldson

## News

by Marilyn Mason

### Grassland for grazing

Two British White Cross cows (a mother and calf) arrived in late January to stay for the remaining winter months in a fenced enclosure on Sawyer's Hill. They are a traditional beef breed, ideally suited to grassland conservation, and are participating in a grazing trial aimed at improving the abundance of the rarer acid grassland flowers and plants in the Park.

Cattle graze on lush grasses, thus increasing biodiversity in conservation grassland by gradually creating gaps between the dense tussocks and allowing flowers such as harebells to flourish, unlike deer, which are browsers, eating mainly woody vegetation and preventing the grassland from developing into woodland.

The effects of this winter grazing on the grassland will be reviewed annually until 2013. The number of cattle will be adjusted according to the response of the grassland flora.

### Information Centre wins award

Recent improvements at Pembroke Lodge, including new gates, re-landscaping and the cafe kiosk and Information Centre (manned by Friends volunteers), received the top prize of a brass plaque from the Richmond Society in its annual awards for the best development in the borough in 2007. You can see the plaque (left) over the Information Centre door.



### Hard surfaces in the Park

Although we often hear how bad hard surfaces in our gardens are for the environment – reducing natural habitats and increasing flood risks – things are rather different in the Park. There, the unsurfaced car parks are now considered not very environmentally sound. They depend on imported and alien aggregates, and in the summer their dust spreads over nearby grassland, changing the nature of the soil and vegetation. Park management policy is now to use hard surfaces and to harvest the water that runs off them. After a simple filtering process to remove pollutants from cars, this water can be used in the Park, and is more natural (and cheaper) than mains water.



## Jewels and threats

by Jackie Grimes

Last summer we invited you to tell us what you feel is particularly special about the Park (its "jewels") and also what you think is most at risk ("threats"). We have now closed the voting and can bring you some results.

### Deer come out on top

With more than 50 people voting, there was a high degree of consensus over what makes Richmond Park so special. Top of the list came "deer" followed closely by "landscape" and "tranquillity". Next came "Isabella Plantation" then "trees", "nature reserve" and "vistas". Some important ecological features of the Park, such as "acid grassland", "birds" and "stag beetles" were



scarcely mentioned, suggesting there needs to be more public education on these.

### "Irresponsible cycling"

The clear top threat was "irresponsible cycling" followed by "commercialisation of the Park" and "dogs". Then came "through traffic", "government funding" and "arrival of non-indigenous species". Some things that damage the Park, such as "disease to trees" and "drought/climate change", only received a few mentions, suggesting that we need to help people understand how vulnerable the Park is to such threats.

In conclusion, we now have some information on how important various issues are to members. We shall continue to carry out similar surveys from time to time so we can gauge how views change. Please let us know what you think about the results of our first survey. Do you agree with the rankings?\*

*Jackie Grimes, Marketing, Friends of Richmond Park committee member*

*\*We launched our consultation exercise in the Summer 2007 newsletter, and also put details on the website.*

### Some comments by members

"I am disappointed with the use of the Park as an amenity. It is destroying its peace and beauty. It should be left alone for true nature lovers to enjoy."

"Irresponsible cycling affecting the well-behaved majority."

"We need a major battle – sorry 'education programme' – against dogs; it's quite absurd for a National Nature Reserve / Site of Special Scientific Interest to be used as a dog-exercising yard."

"I am regularly overtaken by cars exceeding the 20mph limit. We need to educate drivers that driving through the Park is a privilege."

"I urge the Friends to take a very strong position against Heathrow expansion in the coming consultation process."

## Skylark conservation – a success story

by Jane Braham

Spring is here and skylarks may be heard singing high above the Park's grasslands. The song, a melodious unbroken sequence of whistling and chirruping notes, issues from a speck of life high in the sky – Shelley's "blithe spirit" – a bird probably more celebrated in poetry and music than any other. It is the male skylark that sings, to attract a mate and to define his territory.

Some Park visitors are incredulous to learn that skylarks nest on the ground. "Don't birds build their nests in trees?" The skylark's seemingly reckless strategy of breeding amongst tussocky grasses often requires several attempts to succeed. As an adaptation to their precarious position, the young nestlings quickly develop adult-sized legs. This enables

them to disperse from the nest at an early stage and hide amongst the grasses, making it less likely that a predator will discover and take the whole brood at once.

The UK skylark population declined by 53% between 1970-2005. This puts it on the "UK Birds of Conservation Concern – Red list" (meaning numbers have declined by more than 50% in the last 25 years). Research into farmland skylarks has revealed that the modern practice of sowing winter wheat, instead of leaving stubble fields over winter, is a major factor in their decline. The early sown crop has grown too tall for the skylark to use by breeding time.

But why have skylarks declined in Richmond Park over the same period? A survey of singing males in 1968 shows them using 15 different grassland areas across the Park. By 2004 they had withdrawn to merely four. Their foothold in the Park is now tenuous. Over the period of the skylark's decline, visitor pressure on the Park's grassland has increased, suggesting that disturbance to breeding birds, particularly by dogs, may be a contributing factor.



Chris Gomersall (rsph-images.com)

In 2001 the Richmond Park Bird Recording Group (BRG) decided to see if reducing disturbance in a known breeding area would improve the skylarks' prospects of success. Lawn Field, a large area of grassland lying between White Lodge and the lower Pen Pond, was selected as

a Skylark Protection Zone. Pond Slade, situated to the north of the middle road between Ham Plantation and Pen Ponds Plantation was chosen as a control site for comparison, so that any fluctuation in skylark numbers due to weather could be discounted. Both areas were surveyed that year for skylarks and other ground-nesting birds.

The following year, 2002, with the support of the Park management team, the Protection Zone was set up. Signs were installed requesting visitors to Lawn Field to keep to the paths and keep their dogs on leads during the breeding season (March to

end July). Members of the BRG again surveyed both areas and were encouraged to discover that the number of skylark territories in the Protection Zone had increased from three to five. In subsequent years the number increased to six, at which level it remains, suggesting that the carrying capacity of the area has now been reached.

No parallel increase occurred on Pond Slade. This indicates that reduction in disturbance has indeed proved beneficial to the skylark. So the Protection Zone has become a permanent feature of the Park during the breeding season.

The deer are a major factor in maintaining the Park's grasslands, but some areas are also cut for hay. To give ground-nesting birds longer to breed and fledge, hay cutting takes place as late as possible in the season. The traditional farmland method of cutting hay starts from the field edges and progresses inwards, resulting in an ever-decreasing central island where young birds, small mammals and other wildlife become trapped and eventually destroyed. The Park employs a preferable method, cutting from the centre outwards, dispersing wildlife towards the headlands (uncut marginal strips), and to adjacent areas. The headlands themselves in recent years have been made broader, to provide a greater area of refuge.

Paul Donald, the RSPB's expert on the ecology of the skylark, was invited by the BRG to visit the Park and offer further advice. He suggested that the "structure" of the grasslands could be improved by leaving areas of uncut grass during hay mowing, so there would always be some denser, undisturbed areas of two or more years' growth. He also pointed out that skylarks avoid areas close to trees, where they may be watched over by birds of prey. Therefore new tree planting should preferably avoid

encroaching on large grassland areas suitable for skylarks. Both these suggestions have been adopted by the Park.

Finally, during his visit Paul observed powerkiting taking place on the polo pitches, which are adjacent to skylark breeding areas. He pointed out that this activity would definitely deter skylarks from attempting to breed in the vicinity. Accordingly, powerkiting is no longer permitted in this area between March and July, and kite flying generally has been located so as to cause minimum disturbance to wildlife.

The BRG was interested to know if the Protection Zone and other conservation methods had also benefited skylarks in the wider Park. We were excited by the results of a Park-wide survey in 2007, which showed that skylarks were expanding their range again and were back in some areas they had been absent from for many years. It may be that the Protection Zone is now "seeding" skylarks into other areas of the Park, where improved methods of grassland management are offering them suitable habitat.

This conservation success story results from a vital partnership between the BRG, whose volunteers contribute their skills and long hours of work in the field, and Park management. Finally, and essentially, this partnership relies upon the co-operation of Park visitors. The Skylark's future depends upon it.

*Jane Braham retired in 2005 as Assistant Superintendent of Richmond Park*

*The BRG was founded by Jacqueline Shane in 1999, as a sub-group of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group, to carry out the monthly Standard Walk bird survey.*

## Why enclosures?

Text and photos by Piers Eley

You may have noticed the "new" thorn and gorse enclosures around Conduit Wood. The first of these patches of seedling hawthorn and low gorse scrub were enclosed in 1999, in the hope that the self-sown plants they contained would survive climatic changes better than imported trees, and would, over time, create natural areas of scrub. Because of the deer, who love to browse on tender young tree shoots, this type of cover, so important for small birds, is in very short supply in the Park.

The result was startling. Within the first 12 months, some of the hawthorn seedlings had grown from a few inches to more than seven feet in height! Far from being young seedlings, the small shrublets we had enclosed turned out to have been trees of 20 or more years old that had repeatedly been eaten to the ground by the deer. Released from this pressure, the formidable root systems they had developed resulted in dramatic growth. The similar growth of the gorse was less surprising, but equally spectacular.

Almost immediately, these groups of small shrubs began to develop into thickets and

birds started to use them as nesting sites. Below are a couple of the annual visitors that have regularly bred in these enclosures since they came into being.



Above: Male Stonechat in gorse enclosure



Below: Male Whitethroat in thorn enclosure

This great success story has nevertheless brought with it its own problems. We had never intended the enclosures to be permanent, we just wanted to give the scrub a sufficient period of protection from the deer to enable thickets to be established. However, these new thickets have become such important breeding grounds for some of our smaller and less common birds that we would not now want to risk their destruction, by leaving them entirely unprotected.

Not only has the fencing kept the deer at "neck's length", it has also kept out both people and dogs. In effect, these small enclosures have become nature reserves.

Some of the hawthorn enclosures, however, have now become so overgrown with bramble as to appear impenetrable, even without their fencing. Meanwhile, the gorse, in the first enclosures, has grown so tall that it is beginning to show signs of

thinning out and, it is suggested, might now benefit from some browsing.

We have therefore decided to remove the fencing from one of the original gorse enclosures and from three of the most overgrown of the thorn enclosures, to see what effect this will have.



Above is the smallest of these, beside the bench on the north edge of Conduit Wood, with its fence still in place. Below is the same enclosure, with fence removed and brambles trimmed back.



Shorn of its bramble overcoat and fencing, it looks rather small and vulnerable, but we hope that the bramble will be re-established around the edges within the next 12 months. If this is the case, we would hope

that breeding by small birds, particularly the Whitethroats, may at least take place in some of the larger thickets, if not this coming Spring, 2008, in the one thereafter.



The gorse enclosure above looks less bare, stripped of its fencing, but is probably more vulnerable to the attention of the deer. Time alone will tell.



Other birds that regularly breed in these enclosures include: Garden Warblers, Wrens, Robins, Blackbirds, Song Thrushes, Chaffinches and Greenfinches.

All I can really say at this stage is "watch this space"!

*Piers Eley is Chairman of both the Richmond Park Wildlife Group, and the Butterfly Recording Group*

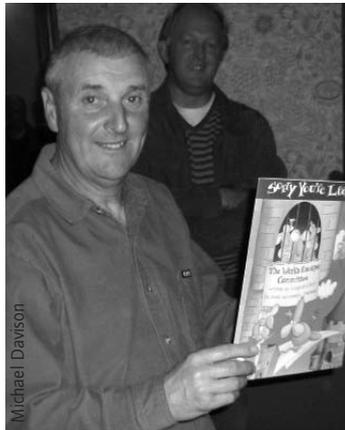
## Bird lover who became Park gardener retires after 39 years

by Michael Davison

A large crowd of Park staff and Friends gathered at the Roebuck on Richmond Hill last September to say farewell to Mike Lewis, popular Isabella Plantation gardener, retiring after an amazing 39 years service to our Park. Many tributes were paid to the contribution made to the perennial splendours of Isabella by a man who in 1968 applied for a job in Richmond Park because "I was a keen bird watcher, so I wanted an open-air job".

Park Manager Simon Richards recalled how Mike started work for the Park on his 21st birthday, at the princely sum of 16 shillings a week. He started as a member of the tree-logging gang, walking six miles to work and back every day from his home in Fulham. Soon, however, he moved to a more convenient home in Sheen, and joined the Isabella team, with whom he worked for the remainder of his career. He has changed the logo on his fleece at least four times as different contractors have come and gone but, said Simon, "the vagaries of contract working have left Mike's enthusiasm for the Park undimmed. His efforts on behalf of the Isabella Plantation have been immense".

Mike has happy memories of his colleagues and bosses over the years. Wally Miller, head gardener until 1980, he particularly remembers as being strict but kind. "One morning I arrived late for work



and told Wally I'd stopped to listen to a bearded tit beside Pen Ponds – that was a good enough reason for him".

Needless to say, Mike's own affection for Richmond Park knows no bounds. He was among the garden staff who in 2003, on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Isabella Plantation in its present form, started guided walks round Isabella, which have become a regular attraction. "I enjoyed those walks", he says. "They kept my brain ticking over, and made sure I kept up to date on the names of all the plants, how they got there and how they're thriving."

One of Mike's bosses with whom he cultivated a particularly close relationship was Jane Braham who, joining the Park staff like Mike as a gardener, was to become Assistant Superintendent. She was also to become Mike's partner, retiring in 2005 after 25 years in the Park. The Friends will wish Mike and Jane many happy years of retirement in Richmond, and enjoying their walks in the Park and on the South Downs and the Norfolk coast.

Friends can still expect to meet Mike around Richmond Park, as he remains a member of the team monitoring its bird life, still pursuing the hobby that first brought him to the Park 40 years ago.

*Michael Davison leads walks for the Friends*

## Magnificent piece of country just 7 miles from Hyde Park Corner

by Ronnie Williams

*Member Ronnie Williams tells us what Richmond Park means to him.*

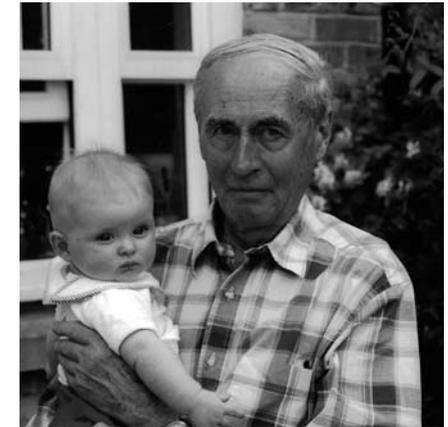
For most of my life – except of course during the war – this amazing stretch of country has been accessible to me and I have appreciated its incredible beauty when the gates have been closed to traffic.

I remember in particular one clear winter's night when I had gone in at Roehampton Gate for a training run. There was a full moon, and the ground ahead to Beverley Brook was blanketed in a dense white mist. Nothing moved. The silence was electric, and peering out above the mist, as still as statues, were the dark heads of the stags. It was pure magic.

One of my favourite places is Queen Elizabeth's Plantation, southeast of Sidmouth Wood. I don't know why I find it so atmospheric. Nowhere else in the Park has the same feel, and I don't know quite what I am expecting to see there – perhaps goblins?

And of course there is the Isabella Plantation, which I think is one of the most beautiful gardens in England. It has one distinctive advantage over some other, more famous gardens – it is bounded by no wall and looks out in all directions on "open country" and green horizons. And this within seven miles of Hyde Park Corner!

I speak as a cyclist myself when I say I think we have to rely on the good manners of



*Ronnie with granddaughter Dodie*

cyclists on the designated paths. One cannot legislate for everything. Prohibitive and prescriptive notices would have to be intrusive to be seen and could still be ignored. I think this magnificent piece of country should be left to speak for itself. I am not in favour of any more cycle paths.

It would also, in my view, be a disaster if Richmond Park had to justify its existence and its funding by meeting targets, which in so many other fields have undermined in devastating ways the public good. Intangibles cannot be measured or fed into computers, and the Park could soon cease to be the place that the Friends were founded to protect.

*Ronnie Williams is a retired GP who lives in Barnes. He has done a lot of cross-country running and now works as a volunteer at the London Wetland Centre.*

# YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Karen Rockell

## Park history puzzle

1. Who enclosed the Park 1635-37 so he could use it for hunting?
2. What terrible City of London event in 1666 would have been seen from Richmond Park?
3. Which bird was introduced into the Park in 1690 for hunting?
4. In 1758 which local brewer won a court case giving people the right to walk across the Park?
5. Which king was born in White Lodge in 1894?
6. In 1940 what would you have been able to see standing in the Park?

## Fascinating fact

When is a worm not a worm? When it is a SLOW-WORM! The slow-worm is in fact a legless lizard and the most common reptile in London.



Slow-worms are gentle creatures that eat slugs. They are often found in rough grassy places, among tree roots and even in compost heaps.

## Wander the web

[www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LondonsBurningIntro.htm](http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LondonsBurningIntro.htm)

<http://wildweb.london.gov.uk/wildweb/Wonders.do>



## Photography competition for young people

Please remember to tell any young people you know about our 2008 competition. There are three age groups:

- under 7
- 7-11
- 12-18.



Winners in each category will receive a photographic voucher, and runners up will receive book tokens. All winners will be invited to a prize-giving ceremony at Pembroke Lodge on 7th June, where they will also receive a framed copy of their winning entry.

Full details about the competition are at [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk), where you can download an application form and also a poster to publicise the competition.

Closing date: 17th May.

This competition is generously sponsored by Russell-Cooke Solicitors

[www.russell-cooke.co.uk](http://www.russell-cooke.co.uk)



and the Eastend of London burning

6. Dog fights in the sky

5. King Edward VIII

4. John Lewis

3. Wild turkey

2. Fire of London

1. Charles I

Answers



## 250 years since Lewis won us the right to walk into the Park

by Max Lankester

*This spring we celebrate local brewer John Lewis's 1758 court victory*

Throughout Richmond Park there are features which remind us of the people who have, in their different ways, helped to make the Park what it is today. Names such as Sidmouth, Sawyer and Pembroke now attach to a plantation, a road and a landmark building; the architect Sir John Soane has left a physical legacy in his works at Thatched House Lodge, Pembroke Lodge and elsewhere.



But something which is crucial to us all – the right to walk into the Park when we please – should be associated with the name of John Lewis. For it was Lewis (pictured), a Richmond brewer, who took court action to establish once and for all that the public enjoyed the right to enter the Park on foot, after the then Ranger, George II's youngest daughter, Princess Amelia, had closed all the gates and admitted only those to whom she had issued a ticket.

Charles I had preserved certain rights of way when he completed the enclosure of the Park

in 1637. In the 18th century, steps were taken to limit those rights, but it was Amelia who tried in the 1750s to abolish them. A 1754 law suit failed to convince the court that pedestrians and carriages had rights of entry.

In the following year, finding himself physically denied entry on foot at Sheen Gate, Lewis tried to force his way in. It was not until 1758 that Lewis's case came to court, and he shrewdly pleaded his case on narrower grounds – i.e. not on the right of unlimited public access but

more precisely on the rights of way that had been recognised since Charles I's time.\*

Lewis's victory at the Surrey Assizes in 1758 resulted in ladderstiles being provided once more. These stiles consisted of steps on each side of the wall, with a small platform at the top; they were erected close to the gates, but had the advantage of being constantly available for use. The Friends plan to mark the 250th anniversary of the re-opening of the Park to the public on 16 May 1758 and to erect a plaque in memory of a determined campaigner.

Max Lankester

*Below: Richmond Gate showing ladderstile*



\* See David McDowall's "The Walker's Guide – Richmond Park", and Michael Davison's article "The Princess and the Brewer" in our April 2005 newsletter (latter available on our website at [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)).

*Pictures reproduced courtesy of the Richmond Local Studies Collection*

**From the Membership Secretary**

Thank you to all those of you who have renewed your cheque/postal order subscriptions over the past three months, and a gentle reminder to those of you who have not done so, to do this if you wish to remain in membership.

To all those who have revised their Standing Order payments by making a new mandate, can I ask you to make sure that you have instructed your bank to cancel the old one (we cannot do it for you), otherwise we will be paid twice!

A number of you have asked why we use Standing Orders and not Direct Debits. The answer is that our membership is not large enough to permit us to do so.

Finally, a very big thank you to all those who kindly make an additional donation to the Friends at renewal time. It is greatly appreciated, especially as we expand our activities, most particularly into education for young people.

Subscriptions: £6 individuals, £10 households and societies. All membership enquiries to Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623. Application forms can be downloaded from our website [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk).

*Sheila Hamilton, 16 Wayside, East Sheen, SW14 7NL, 020 8876 2623.*

**For more information about The Friends**  
See our website – [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk) – or contact Brian Baker, Honorary Secretary, on 020 8546 3109.

**Would you like to help?**

The Police Community Panel, which represents all community interests in the Park, needs a Secretary, mainly to issue agenda and take minutes. The Panel meets evenings four times a year (plus two public meetings). If interested, please call Peter Burrows-Smith (Panel Chairman) on 020 8392 9888

**Queries about Park Management?**

If you have any observations or concerns about the way the Park is being managed please contact Park Superintendent, Simon Richards at:

The Royal Parks, Holly Lodge,  
Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey,  
TW10 5HS  
Tel: 020 8948 3209  
Fax: 020 8332 2730  
E Mail: [richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.royalparks.gov.uk](http://www.royalparks.gov.uk)

Police telephone number:  
020 7706 7272

**Friends Committee**

Chairman: Ron Crompton  
Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith & Sheila Hamilton

Vice Presidents: Richard Carter, David McDowall, Douglas Reynolds, David Thorpe, Mary Thorpe

Other committee members: Brian Baker (Hon. Secretary); Alison Donaldson (Newsletter Editor); John Waller (Hon. Treasurer); John Collier; Jackie Grimes; John Repsch; Karen Rockell

Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

**Events**

**Thurs 17 April, 6 for 6.30pm**

Market House, Market Place, Kingston

**Sat 26 April, 10.30am**

King's House School, King's Road, Richmond

**Fri 16 May, 2pm**

Sheen Gate

**Sat 7 June**

Pembroke Lodge

**Friends at the Market House Festival.** "Deer in Richmond & Bushy Parks". Short talk from the Deer Society, with Park Managers, Simon Richards (Richmond) and Ray Brodie (Bushy), plus opportunity to put questions to panel. Queries: Karen Rockell, 07738 493707. See [www.markethousefestival.org.uk](http://www.markethousefestival.org.uk).

**Friends' 47th Annual General Meeting, with speakers**  
Doors open 10.15 am. See insert included with this newsletter.

**Unveiling of John Lewis plaque,** followed by "mass walk" through the Park. 18th century costumes welcome.

**Photography competition prize-giving.** For details of competition see page12, or visit our website [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)

**Friends' walks and courses**

**Walks**

All are welcome, except for walks where membership of Friends is specified. Most walks start at 10 am from the relevant car park and finish around midday. All walks provide a wildlife option as well as the traditional history option.

Please ring Peter Burrows-Smith on 020 8392 9888 in advance if you need special support or help with the walk. Please keep dogs under control. See also: [www.frp.org.uk/walks](http://www.frp.org.uk/walks)

**Courses**

Friends Members only. £2 fee. Booking essential, ring Sheila on 020 8876 2623.

Date	What and where
5 April, 10 am	WALK: including Skylarks option and Wall option. Meet Roehampton Gate car park.
19 April, <u>8 am</u>	WALK: Spring Birds. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.
25 April, 10 am	WALK: Isabella Plantation in late spring. Meet Broomfield Hill car park.
3 May, 10 am	WALK: Meet Broomfield Hill car park.
10 May, 10 am	WALK: Isabella Plantation in late spring. Meet Broomfield Hill car park.
17 May, 10am	COURSE: Butterflies. Pembroke Lodge. To book, ring 020 8876 2623.
7 June, 10am	WALK: including acid grassland option. Meet Sheen Gate car park.
21 June, 10am	COURSE: Trees. Pembroke Lodge. To book, ring 020 8876 2623.
5 July, 10am	WALK: including Pembroke Lodge gardens option. Meet P. Lodge car park.
19 July, 10am	COURSE: Wildlife. Pembroke Lodge. To book, ring 020 8876 2623.
19 July, <u>8.30pm</u>	WALK: Summer Evening. Meet Sheen Gate car park.



Contacting the Friends of Richmond Park

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