

# The Friends of Richmond Park



Spending cuts on the way?

Cars in the Park

Parakeets – portents or pests?

Preview of the Friends new logo

Launch of the 2010 photography competition

Although most of us probably think of Richmond Park as an oasis of calm, it does have its fair share of controversies, and these are reflected more than usual in this issue, which includes items on dogs, parakeets and cars. And there are other potential threats to the Park's calm in the form of the funding cuts our Chairman highlights on the next page.

But there is also much unreservedly good news in this issue: we announce the launch of the 2010 Photography Competition for Young People, and include several beautiful photos of the Park to inspire young photographers; the Park has won yet another award; Friends are beginning a new conservation project; we preview our beautiful new logo on page 4; and our recently acquired charitable status should soon begin to reap financial dividends (see page 14 and the insert that comes with this newsletter).

One of the Friends trustees alerted us to a 2008 survey of Dutch GPs which confirmed what most of us know: that living close to green spaces has significant physical and mental health benefits. The study, published at <http://tinyurl.com/yhvxjej>, particularly stresses the importance of green spaces close to home for children and lower socio-economic groups. There's plenty in this issue to remind us how lucky we are to have so much green space so close to most of us, and how we can all help to celebrate and protect it.

Marilyn Mason  
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**Cover photos:**  
**Front:** *Olivia Caravello "Morning at Isabella Plantation", winner of 2nd prize in the 2009 Young People's Photography Competition, 7-11-year-old category.*  
**Back:** *The award-winning photograph "Red Deer" by Sam Rowley (see page 13).*

**WANTED**  
 — for this newsletter

Comment pieces or letters: do you have opinions about the Park that you'd like to share – or would you like to get a debate going about some aspect of the Park?

"My Richmond Park" features: do you have reminiscences of the Park you could write about, preferably accompanied by a picture?

Photographs and news items are always welcome.

About 400-500 words, or fewer with pictures, will fill a page of the newsletter. We may need to edit contributions.

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## Spending cuts on the way?

Richmond Park faces possible spending cuts of 15 to 20% over the next three years as part of general reductions in government spending, cuts that are a real threat to the basic fabric of the Park. The Royal Parks agency (TRP), which manages the nine royal parks, spends about £30 million a year, of which £17 million is funded by government and £13 million from commercial income (Hyde Park concerts, catering, parking charges etc). The proportion funded by government (once 90%) has steadily decreased over the last 15 years; now it is considering reducing its contribution further, probably by 10% for the next financial year (beginning in April 2010), with a possible further 10% in each of the two subsequent years. By 2012-13, TRP could have over £5 million less to spend, a cut of 17% in its total budget.

TRP has only two options to cope with this reduction: either to increase its commercial income or cut its spending. Because most of the big commercial opportunities have been exploited, the bulk will have to come from spending cuts. While it is possible to see how cuts of 5% could be made through efficiency savings and cutting "nice-to-do" programmes, it is difficult to see how a cut of 17% could be achieved without affecting basic maintenance.

The Friends Forum (the Chairmen of all eight royal parks Friends) has discussed the cuts with TRP management, and we are clear where they should and should not fall. Our basic principle is that cuts should be selective, not across the board, with maintenance of green spaces protected wherever possible. We say this because the green spaces are the defining characteristic of the royal parks and because they are what we all (TRP and the Friends) want to preserve for everybody. Once allowed to deteriorate, it would be very difficult for precious assets such as acid grassland and veteran trees to recover.

First to be cut should be overheads, such as marketing, communications, education and other discretionary spending. TRP has grown these areas substantially in the last few years, along with a steady increase in head office staff. Second should be buildings and "grey spaces" (roads and car parks); if this includes the planned upgrade of Pembroke Lodge car park, so be it. Only then should cuts in the maintenance of green spaces be considered. We are also against any significant expansion of commercial activities, as that could turn the parks into entertainment venues and change their whole character.

To some extent, the Friends can help to preserve the green spaces. We staff the Visitor Centre, which saves TRP money, and in the last year we have started to fund some small conservation projects. We are currently working on some "Family Trail" leaflets and a guide-book to the Park, both of which TRP might normally have done. And we are starting to organise volunteers to help conserve the green spaces (see page 9). We just have to be careful that this is not seen by government as an excuse to cut funding even more.

Finally, the cuts bring the royal parks ever closer to self funding (after the cuts, commercial income will contribute over 50% of TRP's income). Would it not be better for Richmond Park to be managed by an independent trust, not subject to government interference? This is an idea that the Friends have long considered, and it makes a lot of sense.



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### Encouraging Terns

Peter Burrows-Smith

Very welcome visitors to the Park last year were a pair of Common Terns. These elegant summer visitors to the UK seemed to like the area as they stayed for a few weeks in late summer and were regularly seen fishing at Pen Ponds – where the photograph on the right was taken. It is possible they will return this year and, given suitable encouragement, could breed. So the Friends decided to buy a specially constructed raft which will be installed on Upper Pen Pond near the reed bed – rafts have been very successful where Terns have colonised other tracts of water in the UK. The raft, partly funded by sales at the Visitor Centre run by members of the Friends, should be installed by the time you receive this newsletter.

### Introducing the Friends logo

Unlike many other organisations, we have never had a logo, although we have had a colour scheme and lettering, used for the cover of this newsletter, our monthly e-mail and our website. But now we have one – revealed for the first time below.

The logo shows a buck – a male fallow deer – with foliage in its antlers, combining two of the Park's delights, the deer and the landscape. We decided on a fallow deer because of its elegant shape (the red deer is dumpier sitting down). It is in two shades of green, the predominant colour in the Park and one which is livelier on the page or computer screen than brown. The logo is



*Kerry Davies captures the moment after a Tern emerges from Pen Ponds.*

humorous, both to stand out from more traditional ones and to make people smile. The lettering is simple, but the design of the word "of", together with the deer, gives it something of the feel of a medieval tapestry – very appropriate for a park developed as a hunting park and so close to Mortlake and Richmond Palace. We hope you like it.

You will soon see the new logo on the FRP website, letterhead, banners for this year's stand at the Open Day, posters, and, eventually, fleeces for our volunteers, as well as on a slightly redesigned newsletter. We are very grateful to Colin Porter and the Brand Foundry in Chiswick, who developed the logo for us pro bono, and to Richard Gray, a member of the Friends and a marketing consultant.

### Friends website redesigned

A refreshed FRP website will be up and running in April. It will be cleaner in its appearance, with a white background, and easier to find your way around, with

links on the Home page to the most popular pages (for example, the Park map, our walks and courses, opening times) and to news, which we plan to post more regularly. We hope you like what you see.

We are very grateful to Stuart Valentine and SAV, the website designers, who designed our first website and now this new one pro bono, and to Nick Coleman and Jill Winser, who have overseen it for the Friends.

### Memories of Richmond Park

In response to the recent request for people to provide memories of times past for the Friends History Project, member John Leach sent in his; we include some extracts as tasters here:

"I am now aged over 80... As a young boy I was often in Richmond Park on my bike getting up the hills without any gears. I collected conkers, rolled down the hills and played in the sand by Ham Gate. The pond near Sheen Gate was the star

attraction for boys before the war in 1939. The pond was a place for fishing with a net and taking a boat out. ...During the war years when the Park was closed to the public I remember my friend Mr Arnold from East Sheen had to go into the Park to deliver groceries and he was fined for having the headlights on his bike switched on! The closest boys could get to the Park was by the Common Gate where they looked for shrapnel..."

If you have memories of the Park that you'd like to share, please contact the History Project at [frp@sky.com](mailto:frp@sky.com) or call Karen Rockell on 07738 493 707.

### Barry Day: a tribute

Text and photo by Michael Davison

The floral tribute in the shape of a tractor appearing at his funeral would have amused and delighted Barry Day, who died suddenly on December 16 after 42 years' work as the Park's principal machinery operator.

Readers may recall that Barry, 58, was a central figure in the article about the Park's Estates Team in our Autumn-Winter newsletter. It was while researching that article that I met Barry Day for the first time. He was busy harvesting bracken, but stopped his tractor and got down from his cab to talk to me. As I listened to him chuckling over anecdotes about life in the Park, I quickly came to recognise and respect a man with a great zest for life, who delighted



in his work and the experiences and friends it brought him. His last words to me could form his epitaph: "I came to Richmond Park when I was 17, and I couldn't hope for a better job: away from the rat race, nice Park, nice people."

Friends and colleagues who paid tribute to Barry included Park assistant manager Adam Curtis, who called him "a large man with an even larger personality, without whom the Park is left impoverished". Sharon Evans, charge hand at Pembroke Lodge Gardens, described him as "the most selfless person I ever knew", and added: "He was the eyes and ears of the Park, nothing happened in the place without him knowing."

I count it my good fortune that a newsletter assignment gave me the opportunity to meet one of the Park's true characters.

#### Volunteers' Soiree, December 2009

Text by Max Lankester  
Photo by Michael Davison

"We've collected the float and unlocked the door,  
Switched on the lights and swept the oak floor,  
Read Rachel's notes and put out the sign –  
We're ready to open; it's nine fifty-nine."



The reading by Margaret Burgess (pictured on the left) of the poem she had written about volunteering at the Visitor Centre was a highlight of the volunteers' soiree held on 4 December at King's House School. The evening had been planned and organised by Karen Scott, Lis Hall, Zoe Varnava and

Margaret, and was greatly enjoyed by the 35 or so volunteers who attended.

Festive silliness was provided by Hugh Bostock reading out cracker jokes, supplied by Zoe's husband George and rewarded with appropriate groans. A more taxing exercise was a quiz set by Linda Wadeson, which involved identifying seasonal songs and carols from the initial letters of their titles.

Thanks are also due to Margaret's partner William for manning the bar and to Audrey Milsom for her exquisite mince pies. And, as ever, the staff at King's House School were very helpful and accommodating.

A final extract from Margaret's poem:

"...But volunteering's a pleasure and I look forward to see  
Who will be working their next shift with me.  
I'm sure they'll be charming and we won't need to bicker  
About who's on the till and who's on the clicker."

#### Another Poet of the Park

Film director and poet Paddy Hughes recently released a CD of readings of his Richmond Park poems, also published as "Richmond Park Reflections". See <http://www.countrylovers.co.uk/poet/ph-pvol1.htm>.

#### Birds in the Park

Readers who have enjoyed Jan Wilczur's monthly emailed Bird Notes and our occasional borrowings from them in this newsletter will be sorry to hear that he is now taking a break from writing them. Jan's observations have been fascinating and encouraging, as resident and visiting birds seem to be abundant in the Park. His winter notes included sightings of a Green Sandpiper, over-flying Peregrines, a large flock of Lesser Redpolls, and in December, escaping even colder weather elsewhere, Lapwings, Fieldfares, Woodcock and Snipe. Shovelers, Gadwall and Wigeon

were seen on Park ponds, but sadly the last juvenile Mute Swan on Lower Pen Pond had disappeared, possibly a victim of cold weather, and the female of the Upper Pond pair had also gone missing. Skylarks, Meadow Pipits and a hundred Redwing were among the other birds wintering in the Park.

#### Trees in the Park

The future of Horse Chestnut trees in the Park and beyond seems bleak as canker progressively weakens them. Around 30% of the Park's chestnuts are severely affected by canker and only 30% remain unaffected. Even healthy Horse Chestnuts are brittle, and Park Managers have to minimise risk to visitors – so we can expect to see many more trees felled or reduced by cutting.

Better news is that the London probation service, supported by a grant from the Mayor of London, has been removing Rhododendron Ponticum from the one and half mile long boundary of Sidmouth Wood. Rhododendron is an exceptionally invasive plant – it grows roots where branches touch the ground and can take over an entire woodland. Once it has been removed, stumps will be dug out or cut and treated to ensure it doesn't grow back. The boundary screen will then be re-planted with more suitable native shrubs such as Privet, Holly, Blackthorn and Hawthorn. Some of the trees inside the wooden deer guards that have not established are being replaced, and a traditional livestock hedge is being planted around the fence at the new pond by Cambrian Gate this spring.



Richmond Park tree  
Photo by Jonathan Lane (lane\_jono@yahoo.co.uk)

#### The Park wins an award

Richmond Park won the 2009 London Tree and Woodland Award for "The most innovative woodland project demonstrating community and biodiversity benefits". The judges noted the positive work the Park does for biodiversity when managing enclosures and veteran trees, and also commended the community involvement through groups such as the Friends of Richmond Park and Richmond Park Wildlife Group.

#### Bovine visitors

The five Highland and Dexters cows in the trial grazing project on Sawyer's Hill, near Holly Lodge, will remain there until they have eaten all the grass required or the grazer needs them elsewhere. The trial is to see if the cows have a beneficial effect on the flora of the acid grassland.

With thanks for news items to Ron Crompton and Richmond Park Management.

## Parakeets again – portents or pests?

Marilyn Mason and Peter Burrows-Smith go head to head

### The Parakeet – bird of the future?



I realise that a bird-lover defending Parakeets is somewhat unusual, and I'm not doing so because they are the only birds I've ever noticed. I'm doing it because I

admire their adaptability and intelligence, as well as their exotic beauty, and think that if global warming takes hold as predicted, adaptability and intelligence may prove much more valuable than native status. Parakeets are probably less of a threat to native birds than CO<sup>2</sup>-producing human activity, and in decades to come they and other immigrant species may be the only wildlife a hotter Britain can support, as our more vulnerable native species follow pandas and polar bears into extinction.

In my lifetime I've observed Jays, Magpies, foxes and Peregrine Falcons moving into urban areas and Red Kites colonising the M40 – such changes seem to be aspects of nature's co-existence with humanity, and represent the kind of evolution necessary these days on a crowded island; our local Parakeets are simply an extreme form of this. Perhaps, instead of persecuting them, we should cherish birds that have demonstrated their resilience in such very different conditions from their native India. Do we make false distinctions, I wonder, between species that make their own way here or have been here a long time and

more recent arrivals? Who now remembers that rabbits and pheasants and even the Little Owl were once alien introduced species?

In any case, Richmond Park is far from purist about native species: many of the Park's trees were introduced from elsewhere for commercial or aesthetic reasons, and new trees may well be selected for resilience rather than Englishness; and we tolerate, even enjoy, many non-native wildfowl on the Park's ponds.

I acknowledge that Parakeets are noisy, and they can be destructive of crops so farmers might have good reason to cull them – but I think it's premature and unwise to treat them as pests everywhere, and we should wait for further evidence.

### The Parakeet – officially a pest\* at last!

The Parakeet is a colourful bird, but that is its only redeeming feature. On all other counts it is totally unacceptable in Richmond Park: it is an intruder, completely alien to the UK countryside, and it is unpleasantly noisy!

Firstly, it's an intruder. It is generally accepted that a few were accidentally released in the UK in the mid 1960s, but its numbers have increased steadily and it could come to equal the grey squirrel as a national pest. It is already a significant agricultural pest in Africa and the Indian sub-continent and could, if uncontrolled, develop similarly in the UK.



Next, it is totally alien to the ethos of the Park that anything introduced, for example trees or deer, should be thoroughly checked for 100% local provenance.

This is fundamental to ongoing management and future development plans, as well as to the critical NNR and SSSI classifications. Threats and diseases from outside, such as the recently discovered Oak Processionary Moth (which is unfortunately airborne), have to be controlled robustly. As with the moth, we had no control over the Parakeet's arrival in the Park, unfortunately.

Finally, its shriek is on every count unpleasant! The peace and tranquility of parts of the Park featured very highly in a recent Friends poll - but the noise of Parakeets can completely drown out local bird-song, in particular that of one of the finest British songsters and one of the "jewels" of the Park, the Skylark.

I've already noted that it is a colourful bird, but what about the other colourful resident birds in the Park such as the Green Woodpecker and the Kingfisher? If you still have doubts, why not join me on one of our regular walks?

\* In January the Parakeet became a designated pest in the UK and so can be controlled in particular circumstances.

See also Diederik Strubbes PhD thesis "Invasive ring-necked parakeets in Europe" at <http://tinyurl.com/yfq7gt7>.



Photo by Tony Drakeford

### CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERING

This year we are trialling a programme of volunteers doing practical conservation work in the Park.

First, local BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and RET (Richmond Environmental Trust) groups are arranging regular work sessions in the Park with their own volunteers, and a few members of the Friends, including the conservation group, are joining in to see what is involved. The initial work, mainly in Sidmouth Wood, includes rhododendron clearance ("rhoddy bashing") and planting young trees. If this proceeds satisfactorily, we shall then progressively work to establish our own teams, providing training as appropriate in team leadership, doing the actual work, risk assessment, first aid etc. We shall also in due course have to provide our own tools. Other areas for attention include insurance and funding (initially being provided jointly by the Park and the Friends). If this trial is successful, we will start recruiting more Friends volunteers next year.

Everything being well, we hope to be in a position to obtain Park approval to running our own self managed conservation projects. The Royal Parks will tell us what needs doing and we shall arrange it ourselves – "rhoddy bashing" will be continuous, just like painting the Forth Bridge!

Although we are initially limiting numbers participating in our own trial (though any member of the public can still join via the two groups mentioned above), I would like to hear from anyone who has experience of this work and could contribute to the trials, or maybe even lead a project team.

We hope the work will be very enjoyable and satisfying. It is however important that we do a good job, are totally professional, do not lose the tools etc. In any event, it is a great way to get fit outdoors and save on an expensive gym membership! If you have any interest or queries, please do not hesitate to call me on 0208 392 9888.

Peter Burrows-Smith

## Should through traffic pay for the privilege?

John Collier

Photograph by Michael Davison



*In our January Bulletin, we noted that toll charging was becoming a live issue, with support from various quarters for tolls as an alternative to parking charges. Some 30 members responded, mostly backing tolls rather than parking charges. Here, a trustee of The Friends expresses a personal opinion on the issue.*

Is the time right to look again at the idea of charging people who drive through Richmond Park? I think it might be.

I'm definitely against charging those who drive to the Park and then stay to enjoy all it has to offer. And, judging by the recent protests in the Park and the correspondence columns of the Richmond and Kingston papers, I'm not alone. It's a pity the Minister didn't appear to even consider making people pay for the privilege of driving through the Park.

Discouraging through traffic in the Park has been a long-standing objective of the Friends. I am not anti-car, but I am, first and foremost, for the Park, and I want to see roads in the Park kept out of the national road network and to discourage drivers from cutting through the Park rather than visiting it for its own sake.

My main suggestion is that the Royal Parks should introduce a charge for drivers who go through Richmond Park without stopping, using the sort of

technology that underpins the central London Congestion Charge. Discreet cameras would be set up at each gate to read the number-plates of cars entering and leaving. The driver of a car staying less than, say, 20 minutes would be charged, using a similar collection system to that used for the Congestion Charge.

This would deter most drivers from using the Park as a short-cut, whilst not penalising those who come to the Park to stay and enjoy it. When we have to pay to use a car park the exact opposite will happen: visitors will be penalised and those using the Park as a short-cut will get off scot-free.

The scheme I favour would raise money (at least as much as charging people to park) or, at the very least, would be self funding. But I would not want to see any additional income go into the central coffers of the Royal Parks; instead, I think it should be dedicated to Richmond Park.

The last time road charging was considered for the Park was in the 2001 Traffic Management Report. The idea was not properly debated then because the report also proposed the closure of Robin Hood Gate and it was this that drew nearly all the comment. The report did not actually advocate a particular form of charging but said that the Royal Parks would: "...Look into the technical and other issues involved in introducing charges for vehicles using Richmond Park. If it proves not to be possible to reduce the number of vehicles driving through the Park it might at least be possible to charge them to raise revenue to mitigate the effects of their doing so."

I think this idea should be given serious consideration. It certainly won't be popular with everyone, but we should at least debate the arguments. Even if this Minister won't change her mind on parking charges, perhaps the next one will if there is a viable option.

## Dogs in the Park

Reconciling the freedom to walk dogs in the Park with conserving its ecology and its status as a National Nature Reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest has been a long-standing issue for Park Management and Friends – see, for example, the Comment piece on dogs and wildlife in our newsletter of Autumn/Winter 2008, and the item on the new Dogwatch scheme in Autumn/Winter 2009.

A recent discussion amongst Friends trustees concluded that there seems to be a big gap between the views of many dog walkers on the one hand and many ecologists on the other, and little information available on the views of each side or on the impact of dogs on the ecology. There is also a contrast between the responsible majority of dog walkers who care about the Park's wildlife and observe the rules, and the irresponsible minority who do not know (or possibly care) about the potential damage that dogs can cause to the ecology of the Park.

So we are thinking of setting up a small group of dog owners and ecologists (in the broadest sense – some of the group may be both!) to consider the issues and establish the facts in a way that would be acceptable to both sides. If you have views on the matter or are interested in being a member of the group, please contact Nick Coleman on [nick.coleman@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:nick.coleman@dsl.pipex.com) or 07831 271 951.

And please remember that with the breeding season for skylarks and wildfowl coming up, keeping dogs under control becomes even more important than usual.

Meanwhile, two stories to show that Friends volunteers, Park police and even the Fire Brigade, do care about dogs!

## Happy ending for Lynda and Max

Photo and text by Michael Davison  
When Kingston author Lynda La Plante lost her dog Max during a walk in the Park one Sunday morning she knew where to go for advice. She headed straight to the Visitor Centre at Pembroke

Lodge, which is staffed regularly by Friends volunteers. Her particulars, and those of her black "cockapoo" (a cross between cocker spaniel and poodle), were recorded in the Centre day-book in case any later visitors reported a finding.

By a lucky coincidence, Park Police Constable Kelvin Clarke was on duty at Pembroke Lodge car park. Kelvin alerted a patrolling police car team, asking them to look out for Max, and an hour later the call came:

"Dog found, near Pen Ponds." Soon Max arrived by police car at the Visitor Centre for a happy reunion with his owner (pictured on the right), who expressed her delight at the successful combined operation by police and Visitor Centre staff.



## Dog drama at Pen Ponds

Friends member and Visitor Centre volunteer Steve Williams was walking and taking photographs in the Park one snowy January morning when he chanced upon a dramatic dog rescue at Pen Ponds. A teenage girl's dog had gone onto the frozen Lower Pen Pond and was stuck on the island in the middle. An exciting and dramatic morning ensued, with London Fire Brigade coming to the rescue, a happy ending, and, writes Steve, "hopefully a lesson to those who insist on letting their dogs off lead around the Ponds". Pictures and a short video of the rescue can be seen at Steve's blog, <http://tinyurl.com/ydj8d78>.

# YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Susanna and Katie Ramsey

## BIRD WORD SEARCH

Can you find 10 birds that can be seen in Richmond Park in the grid below?

h	e	k	e	s	t	r	e	l	h
e	c	w	g	m	a	g	p	i	e
r	r	o	b	i	n	k	e	g	
o	a	e	o	l	g	p	i	e	u
n	w	n	w	w	u	s	n	h	l
j	a	c	k	d	a	w	o	t	l
a	f	l	g	u	l	a	l	w	a
l	l	s	w	a	d	n	o	b	j

## DUCKLINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR THIS SPRING

Notes	Male Ducks (easier to identify than the females)	Ducklings
Mallard ducklings can swim, run and feed themselves within a few hours of hatching. They can run into trouble, but if danger threatens the mother duck is famous for distracting the attacker by pretending to have a broken wing. The attacker follows her instead of the ducklings, then she "recovers" and flies away to safety.		
The pretty Mandarin duck nests in tree holes, up to 10 metres off the ground. Their ducklings have to fall out of the nest and follow their mother to water.		
Tufted Ducks are diving ducks, and their little brown ducklings are great fun to watch as they bob down and then pop up somewhere else on the pond!		

## INTERESTING WEBSITES

To see all kinds of bird skulls in 3D animation, including tawny owl, woodpecker and swift, take a look at [www.skullsite.com/skeletons/index.htm](http://www.skullsite.com/skeletons/index.htm)

To download Spotter sheets on flowers, trees, birds and animals, and other craft ideas, go to [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk).

## PLACES TO VISIT

To have a close encounter with British wildlife, such as owls, red squirrels, badgers (see them inside their sett, with their young), otters, pine martins, stoats, weasels, foxes and various tiny mice, visit the British Wildlife Centre. See: [www.britishwildlifecentre.co.uk](http://www.britishwildlifecentre.co.uk).



The Friends of Richmond Park fourth annual Photography Competition, generously supported by Russell-Cooke solicitors, is now launched, and leaflets and posters about the competition are appearing in local schools.

As in previous years, the judges are looking for original, beautiful or striking images that show why the Park is so special, and there are three age categories: under 7 years; 7-11 years; and 12-18 years (on 10 May 2010, the deadline for entries).

Winners will be awarded photography tokens (£60, £30 and £20), and all prize-winners and highly commended entrants will receive framed enlargements of their photographs at the prize-giving at Pembroke Lodge on June 12th.

You can find the entry form, with lots of useful ideas and tips for young photographers and the rules of the competition at [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk), as well as at the Richmond Park Visitor Centre and local libraries and tourist information centres.



## For inspiration...

Have a look at the display of winning photographs from previous years at the Richmond Park Visitor Centre. Our front cover features one of the 2009 winners, Olivia Caravello's "Morning at Isabella Plantation", and on the left is a Highly Commended entry in the 7-11 category: Libby Darlington's "Isabella Peacock".

Fifteen-year-old photographer Sam Rowley, who lives in Richmond, took the photograph below and the award-winning one on our back cover, which can also be seen on the BBC News website. More of his beautiful wildlife photographs can be seen at <http://samrowley.zenfolio.com>. Sam describes how he took these pictures:

"Red Deer" (*back cover*): "I set out early one August morning, aiming to take some pictures of the deer preparing for the autumn rut. I saw this particular stag thrashing its antlers in the bracken to get rid of the irritating remains of the velvet that covered them. Slowly I crept towards it and, instead of taking the usual front-lit shot, I went for the silhouetted approach – which displays the beautiful shapes of the antlers and what covers them!"

"Fallow Deer" (*below left*): "During the autumn rutting season for British deer, I spent a day in the Park to photograph them performing their seasonal rutting. As I was sitting watching the deer, this pair suddenly broke out into a serious fight – and I managed to take a few pictures, this one being the best. The overcast lighting that day decreased the contrast of the light, showing the textures of the deer."

Great photos don't have to be in colour – see the lovely black and white photograph on page 7, taken by Jonathan Lane.

See also the striking photograph of a Tern on pages 4-5, and more of Kerry Davies' Richmond Park photos at [www.wabisabipix.com/p791044815](http://www.wabisabipix.com/p791044815).

### Subscriptions, Membership and Gift Aid

A big thank you to those of you who made a donation with your subscription. Now that we are a charity, your subscriptions and donations can be worth even more if they are Gift-Aided.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter to enable you to do this. You only need sign this once, though you will see reminders at renewal time and regularly in future newsletters so that we can be certain we are maximising this source of income. The only criterion is that you have to be paying sufficient UK income or capital gains tax to meet the amount reclaimed, currently 25p in the pound.

I would strongly urge you to do this.

*Sheila Hamilton, Hon. Membership Secretary*

Subscription Rates: £6 for individuals, £10 for 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).

#### The Friends invites members...

- To help conserve the Park (see page 9);
- To join a working group on dogs (see page 11);
- To contribute your memories to the Park History project (see page 5);
- To fill in a Gift Aid form (see above and insert);
- To come along to our AGM (see enclosed notice).

### Queries about the Friends?

For more information about The Friends of Richmond Park see our website, [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk), or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or [max.lankester@frp.org.uk](mailto:max.lankester@frp.org.uk)

### Friends monthly email

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly email highlighting Friends activities, together with Park and Isabella Diaries by Simon Richards and his staff, please email [cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk), including your postcode.

### Queries about park management?

If you have any observations or concerns about the way the Park is being managed please contact Park Manager, Simon Richards at:  
The Royal Parks, Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 5HS  
Tel: 020 8948 3209  
Fax: 020 8332 2730  
Email: [richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.royalparks.gov.uk](http://www.royalparks.gov.uk)

Police non-emergency telephone number: 0300 123 1212

### Trustees of The Friends

Chairman: Ron Crompton

Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith (Walks and Courses) & Sheila Hamilton (Hon. Membership Secretary)

Other Trustees: Brian Baker, John Collier, Alison Donaldson, John Karter, Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), Jack Maunders (Hon. Treasurer), Karen Rockell.

Vice Presidents: Richard Carter, David McDowall, John Repsch, Douglas Reynolds, Mary Thorpe, John Waller.

Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

## Friends walks and courses

### WALKS

All welcome. Most walks start at 10.00am from a car park – but please note our three spring and summer specials.

Please phone Peter Burrows-Smith on 020 8392 9888 in advance if you need special support or help with the walk, and please keep dogs under control.

### \*WILDLIFE COURSES

are typically a 30-minute talk at Pembroke Lodge followed by a 2-hour walk. Courses are for Friends members only and places must be booked – please call Sue on 0208 549 8975. Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

### See also

[www.frp.org.uk/walks](http://www.frp.org.uk/walks)

There are also free guided walks in Isabella Plantation led by Park staff throughout the year. These walks last about one and a half hours and are publicised on Park notice boards.

### Date

3 April, 10.00am

17 April, 8.00am

1 May, 10.00am

3 May, 5.00am

15 May, 10.00am

5 June, 10.00am

12 June, 10.00am

3 July, 10.00am

10 July, 10.00am

24 July, 8.30pm

### What and where

WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park.

WALK: Spring Birds, meet at Pembroke Lodge car park.

WALK: meet at Broomfield Hill car park.

WALK: Dawn Chorus, meet at Sheen Gate.

COURSE\*: Park Wildlife, Pembroke Lodge.

WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park.

COURSE\*: Trees, Pembroke Lodge.

WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park.

COURSE\*: Butterflies, Pembroke Lodge.

WALK: Summer evening, meet at Sheen Gate car park.

### OTHER EVENTS

Saturday 24 April  
Kings House School,  
Kings Road, Richmond

**The Friends Annual General Meeting.** See enclosure with this newsletter for details.

Sunday 19 September

**Richmond Park Open Day,** this year celebrating St Paul's 300th anniversary. Watch FRP monthly emails, the website and this space for details.



**The Friends of Richmond Park**

**Registered Charity No. 1133201**

**[www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)**

Richmond Park is  
a National Nature Reserve & Site of Special Scientific Interest