

# DISCOVERERS

For families exploring Richmond Park



## WELCOME TO DISCOVERERS!

The Friends of Richmond Park are delighted to announce a new activities programme for families and young people.

We hope that in the future we can share with you information about what's happening in the Park, and learn about what you enjoy doing there.

### Win a Wildlife Safari by Night in Richmond Park

To make our launch extra special we have an exciting competition for children age 5-11 years. There will be two prizes consisting of a wildlife safari by Land Rover through the Park after dark for up to four people (to include at least one adult), accompanied by Simon Richards, Park Manager. After the trip we will put your stories or pictures on the website for other people to enjoy.

We also have copies of *Family Trails in Richmond Park* for three runners-up.

#### How to Enter

Simply answer the following questions and send your answers to [discoverers@frp.org.uk](mailto:discoverers@frp.org.uk). Please include your name and age, the name and email address of a parent, and a contact phone number. We can then send you further information on family events in the Park, unless you ask us not to. **CLOSING DATE NOW EXTENDED TO FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY!**



Not sure of the answers?  
They can all be found in our book  
*Family Trails in Richmond Park*  
by Susanna Ramsey

1. Name two places in the Park where a winter feeding manger for the deer can be found.
2. What is the soft covering called on the new antlers that male deer grow in springtime?
3. How many species of deer are there in Britain?

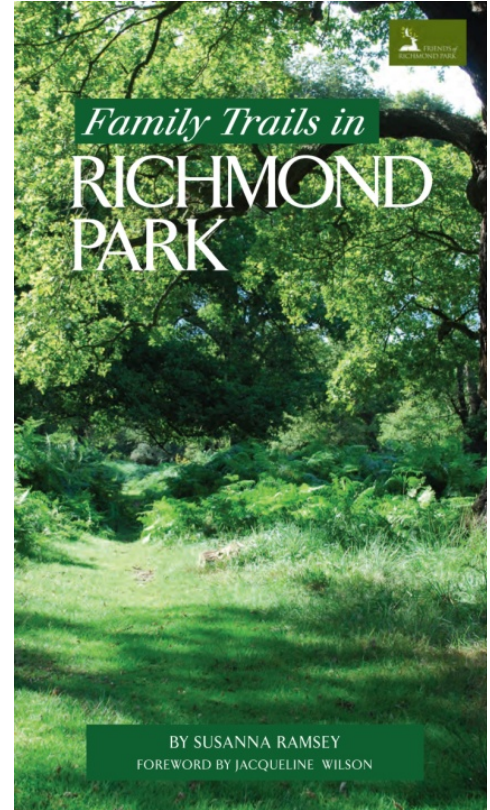
You don't have to be a member of The Friends of Richmond Park to take part, but if you would like to join or find out more go to [www.frp.org.uk/friends/get-involved](http://www.frp.org.uk/friends/get-involved)

# FAMILY TRAILS IN RICHMOND PARK

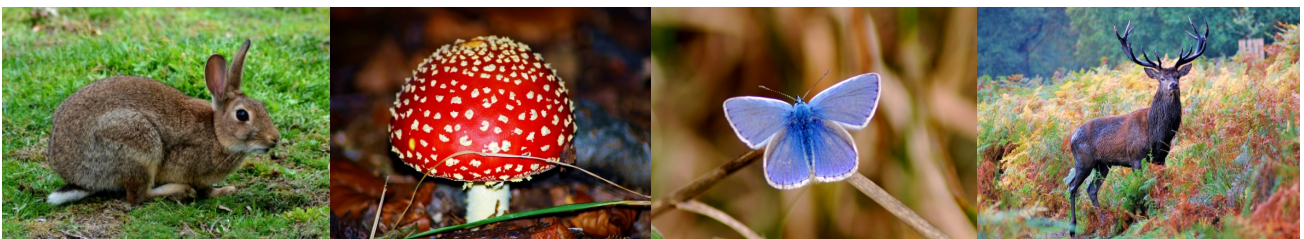
Have you ever wandered off the beaten track in the Park? Do you know where Dr Who's Tardis can be seen? Could you find the winter feeding manger for the deer? Where can you see mistletoe growing?

Answers to all these questions can be found in a book recently published by the Friends. ***Family Trails in Richmond Park***, written by Susanna Ramsey, describes six walks through the lovely woods and wide open spaces of the Park. Importantly, all profits from sales of the book will go to fund conservation projects in the Park.

Full of beautiful full-colour photographs, and priced at only £6.99, it is available from the Richmond Park Visitor Centre next to Pembroke Lodge, at local branches of Waterstone's and at independent bookshops.



In 2012 the Friends are planning to offer a Discovery Trails programme with young people in mind, to help you and your family find out more about our amazing Park, its wildlife and history. Watch this space for details!



Photos by Susanna Ramsey, © The Nature Collection ([www.thenaturecollection.co.uk](http://www.thenaturecollection.co.uk))

### TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF!

Why not send us an email to tell us what you like best about the Park and how you spend your time there? Do you have any ideas about what you would like to see on this website? Send in your thoughts and photos and we will put them on the Discoverers pages.

### Contact us on:

[discoverers@frp.org.uk](mailto:discoverers@frp.org.uk)

# My Park

## In 2011 the Friends of Richmond Park held the first poetry competition dedicated to Richmond Park.

### *Poems in the Park, 2011*

We invited poets of all ages to write about something to do with Richmond Park that had inspired them. We wanted to encourage people to engage with the wonders, wildlife and environment of London's favourite park.

More than 650 poems were entered, with over 30 schools participating, and 80% of those poems were written by young people aged 7-17. Two of the categories were for children, and the winning poems were outstanding. The poets were lucky enough to be presented with certificates and prizes from Dame Jacqueline Wilson.

### Lost in the Park

Under this tree I am iced  
By scattered blossom drifting down.  
Like feathers moulted by a gnarly bird,  
I am a child hiding under his mother's gown.

I am lost, my mind is wandering,  
I am an explorer without a map,  
Without a compass my thoughts are roaming,  
As mice without the fear of trap.

Through the branches, moving shadows,  
I see the negative of leaf,  
Medusa trunk and serpent branches  
The grassy breeze a perfume thief.

Above this copse, the arching sky  
Is filled with hunters chasing deer.  
Now just clouds, but once for real,  
The past and present crystal clear.

*Edward Pearson, age 8  
winner age 12 and under  
category*



### The Fern

Briskly rising from the ground,  
A beryl blanket all around,  
The unknown soul of the park,  
Lives with the bat, lives with the lark,  
A gentle breeze shifts it slightly,  
The amber sun shines so brightly,  
Deer tracks scattered among the ferns,  
Where the morning sunlight fiercely burns.  
Days to months, Months to years,  
From summer to autumn it never fears,  
The heart of the park it remains,  
'Til winter it occupies the plains,  
Alas, the frost with its icy grip,  
Controls the mass with its icy whip,  
"Death to them", the frost cries,  
And with that, Richmond Park dies.

*Louis Sutcliffe, age 13  
winner age 13-18 category*



**Look out for all the shortlisted entries on display near Poet's Corner, Richmond Gate very soon.**