

# The Friends of Richmond Park



Long-distance butterflies

Puzzles and ideas for children

What the Park means to me - a member explains

White Ash Lodge & the English love of deer parks

## Stiffness and solitude in the Pembroke Lodge of the 1870s

Having lost both parents by the age of three, Bertrand Russell spent most of his childhood living with his grandparents, Lord and Lady Russell, at Pembroke Lodge, as many of you will know especially if you saw Michael Davison's article in this newsletter last summer. I recently followed my curiosity about this phase of Russell's life and borrowed part one (nearly 700 pages) of Ray Monk's biography of Russell from the library.

I was riveted by Russell's life story and particularly intrigued to learn about the oppressive atmosphere that evidently reigned at Pembroke Lodge (or "P.L." as it was known in the family) in those days – this was the 1870s.

Russell's brother Frank, aged 10 at the time, wrote later that the atmosphere had been "full of high principle and religious feeling of the same kind that surrounded Queen Victoria... Religion might occasionally be spoken of with bated breath and in a hushed curate sort of voice, but sex, birth, swearing, trade, money, passion, were subjects I never heard mentioned". Monk tells us that "where before Frank had been free to wander barefoot around the grounds of Ravenscroft" (their previous home in Monmouthshire) and to "go cantering unsupervised around the countryside on his pony, now he was never allowed beyond the grounds of the house, even to go into the Park, and the idea that he might wander alone into the village of Petersham or the town of Richmond was quite unthinkable".

Despite these constraints, the two brothers came to have a great affection for the house itself, especially the garden. Bertrand Russell wrote: "Throughout the greater part of my childhood, the most important hours of my day were those I spent alone in the garden, and the most vivid part of my existence was

solitary", though rather poignantly he added: "I seldom mentioned my more serious thoughts to others, and when I did I regretted it..."

Monk's biography provides a flavour of the late Victorian era, a fascinating insight into what made Russell the person he was and an impression of Pembroke Lodge in the 1870s.

**Alison Donaldson**

alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk

*Bertrand Russell: the Spirit of Solitude*, by Ray Monk, Random House, 1996

## Pembroke Lodge archive – help needed

Over the last few years Daniel Hearsom has not only refurbished and extended Pembroke Lodge but he has also built up a considerable archive of material about the Lodge and, in particular, its associations with the Russell family. There is also a lot of stuff about the history of the Park more generally. But it's now proving too much for him to handle and he would like someone to help him (on a voluntary basis) get it organised and made available for interested visitors.

You do not have to be a professional archivist but you do need to be good at organising/cataloguing, etc and, probably more than anything else, have a real interest in the Park's history, in Pembroke Lodge and in the Russell family although you certainly don't have to be an expert – just an enthusiast!

If you would like to find out more please contact me by email and I will put you in touch with Daniel at Pembroke Lodge.

**John Collier**

johncollier@frp.org.uk

## Education, campaigning or fundraising?

What should the role of the Friends of Richmond Park be in the early years of the 21st century?

We were founded in March 1961 when 112 people turned up at the Station Hotel in Richmond. Their main concern was a proposal to build a new road from Shepherds Bush over a new bridge across the Thames, continuing over Barnes Common through the east side of Richmond Park to join the Kingston by-pass!

They had good cause to be concerned. There were also government plans afoot to open Richmond Park to traffic after dark and to increase the speed limit from 20mph to 30mph. And a little while before, a slice of Hyde Park had been taken into the main highway system to improve the flow of traffic leading to very real concerns that something similar might happen to Richmond Park.

Messages of support were received from a number of the great and good including Sir Julian Huxley and John Betjeman, and the new road was never built, though the speed limit did go up.

Not surprisingly, in the light of all this the nine original aims and objects of the Friends focused on preserving the Park "for pedestrians, equestrians, motorists and cyclists, and all others who wish to use it for air and exercise, leisure and recreation". They also referred to concerns about "encroachments of through motor traffic" and wanted to "encourage the greater awareness by the public of the amenities of the Park and the need to respect them".

Over the years these aims and objects have remained largely unaltered and seem just as relevant today as then. Most of the members I speak to are concerned about the ever-so-

gradual "urbanisation" of the Park and the huge numbers of people who come to enjoy its wildlife and wide open spaces but who are in danger of harming the very things they come to enjoy.

So where should we concentrate our efforts in 2007 and what should we actually do? Should we be:

- \* A campaigning body?
- \* An educational body?
- \* A charitable body raising money for the Park?

Personally I think we should be all three with the emphasis changing over the years. We began in the 1960s by campaigning, we became more educational and social in the 1970s and 1980s, and then resumed campaigning (with the aim of reducing the impact of motor traffic) in the 1990s. Now I think we are going through another "educational" phase with lots of walks, talks and (from Easter 2007) the new Information Centre at Pembroke Lodge. We are also planning to help raise awareness of the Park in local schools and community groups.

There is one unresolved question on which I'd appreciate your views. Should we register as a charity and actively raise funds for the benefit of the Park?

In some ways the answer might seem to be an obvious "yes" but if the money raised simply replaces the government grant (which is gradually shrinking in real terms) the Park is no better off.



A related concern is that we might end up duplicating the efforts of the Royal Parks Foundation, which has charitable status and raises money for all the eight Royal Parks? Some small grants have recently come from the Foundation for fit-out of the new Information Centre, a new greenhouse for the Holly Lodge Centre and a contribution towards the cost of a new horse box for the shire horses.

Personally I'd like to see us select our own projects in the Park (after consulting Park Superintendent, Simon Richards, and his team) and raise money that we know will directly benefit Richmond Park.

What do you think, and what projects would you like to see the Friends raise money for? Please email me your thoughts.

**John Collier**  
johncollier@frp.org.uk

### Could you help produce the Friends' newsletter in future?

Alison Donaldson has been editing the newsletter since 2003 and would like to start sharing this interesting and satisfying task with others. Ultimately she would like to be able to hand over the role to somebody suitable during 2008.

We have an open mind about how this could be achieved. The task needs either someone who is already expert, or somebody who is keen to learn about newsletter production. A new editor would not be starting from scratch – we have already built up an excellent group of contributors who provide informative articles on topics such as wildlife and history. Perhaps you could imagine beginning by taking charge of a specific page, such as News & Events, or Letters & Emails?

If you have a suggestion, please either contact John Collier, or email Alison directly on [alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk](mailto:alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk).

### Nasty invader

Some walkers recently found this creature by a stream between Isabella Plantation and Pen Ponds. According to Park Superintendent, Simon Richards, it is a Chinese Mitten Crab, which is a "particularly nasty invasive crab that has been spreading outwards from the Thames for some years having probably originally arrived in the bilges of ships using London's docks". Simon asks anyone who sees one to contact the Royal Parks office on 020 8948 3209 or email [richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk).



### What the Park means to me

*From this issue on we would like to give a member a page of the newsletter to tell us how they enjoy the Park, why they care about it and what concerns they have. We are delighted to welcome Susanne Normann as our first contributor.*



I live near Kingston Gate and I am a triathlete and a member of the local Kingston Running club "The Stragglers". Richmond Park is my training ground for running and cycling – what a fantastic place to have right on our door step.

I have followed all the recent concerns about cycling in the Park. I fully understand the problems between cyclists, cars and pedestrians and I wish there were a solution. In recent years the Park does seem to have become more popular and more busy, which on the one hand is absolutely fantastic but on the other hand increases the problems.

I agree with the view expressed by the Chairman last year in this newsletter that the path from Ham Gate to Petersham Gate should not be permitted for cyclists. It is a very rural area and should be kept like this. There are enough tracks in the Park that can be used by cyclists, though they do get very busy at times. Using the paths for running and sometimes for mountain biking, I feel that I need to go out early or when the weather is bad, as the paths get too busy with walkers, prams and cyclists in more popular times. So maybe it is just a question of timing. Most of my fellow runners and cyclists agree that the best times for us in the Park are after the gates are closed and the roads are empty. It makes it a very special place, just you and the deer.

I really do not know what the best solution would be in general. Maybe more signs are needed, or leaflets could be distributed to visitors at the entrances to make people aware of the rules. It does not help if mountain bikes speed past people walking their dog or pushing a pram. Unfortunately it comes down to everyone's individual behaviour and I hope a few inconsiderate people will not spoil it for the rest of us. I am worried that restrictions might come into place which would affect those of us who use the Park for sport, appreciate nature and show respect for others.

I very much like the idea of the Richmond Park Information Centre. As I like to support the Park and stay informed, I have offered to help out as a volunteer at weekends when I can.

*If you would like to tell us about how you enjoy the Park, please contact the editor on [alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk](mailto:alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk).*

## MP points to environmental concerns in Richmond Park

Text and photo by Michael Davison

The annual lunch of the Friends of Richmond Park took place in November in the handsome Belvedere Room of Pembroke Lodge, courtesy of Daniel Hearsom. (Daniel, Friends were impressed to learn, was at the time indulging his hobby of sailing across the Atlantic.)

After an excellent lunch, guests sat back to look out over the terrace and listen to guest speaker Justine Greening, Conservative MP for Putney since 2005. Justine, 37, is also a vice-chairman of the Conservative Party, with special responsibility for youth.

The Friends have had their differences with Justine over the closure of Robin Hood Gate, which her constituents' interests led her to oppose, but as chairman John Collier said in introducing her "we have many

more interests in common than those which divide us".

Taking up this theme, Justine Greening declared: "We have a common care for the environment, a shared faith that concerned individuals can change people's attitudes and behaviour". She commended the Friends as "people who take an active responsibility for conserving and enhancing the environment".

One field in which Justine sees groups like ours as being "particularly well placed to play a role" is in helping to resist the adverse effects of climate change. Justine clearly has a passionate interest in proposed legislation on this subject, but warns that its burden must not be allowed to fall on small businesses and the disadvantaged.

*Michael Davison leads walks for the Friends*



*Justine Greening MP speaking, with Friends' Patron Lord Rix listening in the background*

## Puzzles and activities for children

by Karen Rockell

### Oak tree word search

Find the following 8 different parts of an Oak tree:

- Trunk
- Bark
- Branch
- Twig
- Leaf
- Root
- Blossom
- Acorn.

Words can be found along a horizontal, vertical or diagonal line.

D	R	A	T	E	S	P	I	A	N	H	L
C	S	T	E	R	P	S	F	L	O	R	E
K	A	R	E	G	I	D	O	B	T	K	B
B	L	O	S	S	O	M	B	R	U	O	R
T	R	L	D	N	M	L	T	A	F	B	O
L	E	T	E	F	V	O	U	N	V	A	A
T	W	W	A	A	O	R	P	C	G	R	E
S	E	I	I	R	F	N	A	H	A	K	D
B	A	G	E	E	D	A	C	O	R	N	I
H	T	R	U	N	K	W	L	B	T	M	P
B	D	R	A	N	O	T	F	L	Y	E	B
A	S	P	T	E	R	P	B	U	T	B	C

### Create your own Richmond Park journal

Here's an idea to make visiting Richmond Park fun. Every time you go into the Park, take a notebook and pens, or paper and a clipboard. Make notes about:

- \* Who is with you
- \* What the weather is like
- \* Where you go in the Park
- \* What you see
- \* What you hear
- \* What you smell
- \* Take photographs or draw pictures.

Have fun and let Karen know if you see something unusual or funny. Email her on [Karen.rockell@btinternet.com](mailto:Karen.rockell@btinternet.com) or telephone 020 8439 1708.

*Karen Rockell is a member of the Friends' committee*

Recommended website:

[www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/springwatch/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/wildbritain/springwatch/)

### Children's photography competition

To coincide with the BBC's Spring Watch, we are holding a photography competition for children. The topic of the photograph should be **SPRING IN RICHMOND PARK**. The entries will be judged in three age groups:

- \* Under 7 yrs
- \* 8-12 yrs
- \* 13-18 yrs

Full details will be available in March and will be included in the April Bulletin, our website ([www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)) and obtainable from local schools and media.

## One Red Admiral does not a summer make

Text and photos by Piers Eley



We are all familiar with the saying: "One Swallow doth not a Summer make" as we watch for the arrival of that most famous of migratory birds, but I wonder how many realise that the Red Admiral, perhaps the best known and most loved of all our native butterflies, may often have flown almost as far to join us each year.

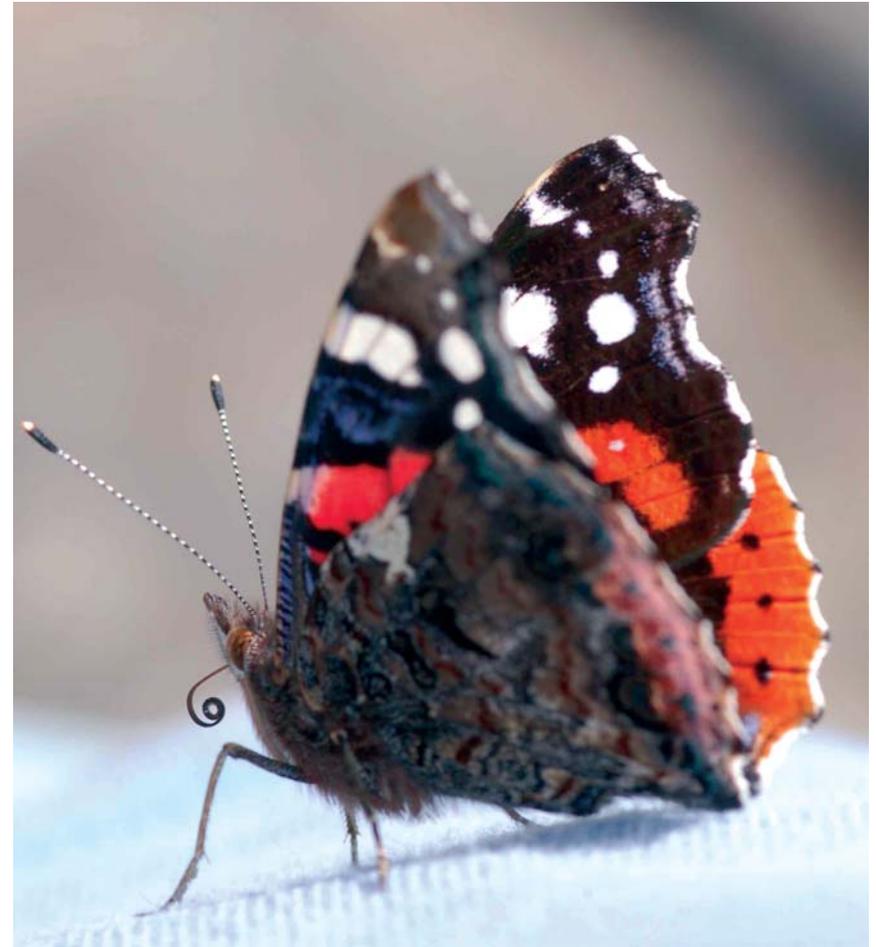


Some Red Admirals, it is true, do last through the winter in this country by hibernating, mostly in Cornwall and the South West, and these are likely to be the first ones we see in small numbers in the spring. However, the ones that arrive in May, and then in larger numbers in late June and early July, will probably be on the journey north from Spain or South Western France, travelling as far as the northernmost Scottish islands to breed every year.

In a good year such as 2006, the southerly migration of Red Admirals in the late summer and into the autumn will be even more noticeable. The last one I recorded in 2006 was in Dorset in mid-November, long after its cousins the Peacocks and Tortoiseshells, which are among the first butterflies to emerge in March every year, would have been safely tucked up inside a barn or a hollow tree for their winter hibernation.

The caterpillars of this beautiful butterfly are less noticeable than those of the Peacock and Tortoiseshell, both of which believe in safety in numbers, so that it is common to see nettle stems covered with a spiny black mass of their caterpillars. Not so the Red Admiral, which prefers to lay its eggs singly, while each individual caterpillar will weave a nettle leaf house around itself as it feeds.

Of course, the migration of the Red Admiral does not compare with that of its close relative, the Painted Lady, which flies here from Africa every year, but, given that the former is one of our commonest



native butterflies, it is nevertheless surprising to realise that these butterflies are always on the move and may travel many hundreds of miles north or south during their relatively short life span.

One final question has always intrigued me: Why are these butterflies called "Red Admirals"? I suspect that this dates back to the 18th Century when the Royal Navy divided its fleets into three sections: Red,

White and Blue, with an admiral in charge of each. So we have White Admirals, a rarity in the Park, and the commoner Red Admirals, but I have yet to come across a Blue member of this distinguished family!

*Piers Eley  
Chairman,  
Richmond Park  
Wildlife Group*

## Cycling Greenways get thumbs down

From David Callow, Richmond

With regard to the item in the Friends' New Year Bulletin about Wimbledon Greenways, I am writing as requested to give my opinion. I know that the Friends will oppose this proposed further urbanisation of Richmond Park and I give my full support for such opposition.

Richmond Park is a precious, semi-wild large green space surrounded by one of the largest urban metropolises in the world. Its very existence gives the urban dweller an opportunity to get away from the busy and built-up life outside its boundaries. As the Friends are well aware, the Park already contains an encircling motor road, with a number of hard-topped branches, as well as a semi-hard encircling shared cycle track. Otherwise there are a number of soft paths and bridleways. The whole network gives motorists, cyclists, horse riders and walkers plenty of opportunity for getting about the Park and, in the case of the latter three categories, for exercise and for communing with nature.

The Park is a destination in itself and is not a place to be passed through on a journey! It is inappropriate to the nature of the Park to consider making further ways or hard-topped paths or roads just to enable people to get more quickly to destinations outside its boundaries.

A distinction must be drawn between the kind of urbanised 'municipal' park which is criss-crossed with roads (Battersea Park and Regent's Park are good examples), and a wilder open space such as Richmond Park. It

is a pity that we use the same word 'Park' for both — perhaps we suffer from this, for people with no personal knowledge of what Richmond Park is and has to offer may not understand the difference.

From Ann Mills, Yorkshire

My husband and I run a bed and breakfast in Bridlington in Yorkshire. I used to live in Wimbledon and am a lover of Richmond Park. My friend from Morden has just forwarded to me the Friends of Richmond Park magazine.

I was very interested to read your article on the proposed corridors for bicycles. On the face of it what a splendid idea; in reality, how frightening. One thinks of a family going out for a Sunday spin on safe cycles with dad leading, mum in the rear and the little ones arranged in size or age order safely between them. What actually happens is a blur of speed, screech of brakes and obscenities as the mountain or racing bike frightens the life out of yet another pedestrian or squirrel.

I love the idea of cycling corridors. However, I have experienced first hand the dangers from cyclists letting rip on the Canal Towing Paths. I lived on a narrow boat for five years during which time the waterways rules stated that cycling was not permitted on the towing path unless the cycle had a) a licence and b) a bell to warn others of your approach. The canal way of life is intended to be tranquil and rewarding. Indeed to preserve this idyll there is a four mile an hour speed limit imposed on all waterway traffic. On many occasions we were frightened to

*"A distinction must be drawn between the kind of urbanised 'municipal' park criss-crossed with roads and a wilder open space such as Richmond Park"*

death and nearly ended up either in the canal or the hedgerow being forced there by the passage of a racing bicycle.

Some cyclists are considerate but most are in such a hurry, travelling at such high speed and on blind corners and bridgeholes that they are definitely a danger to other canal

## Park maintenance in new but somewhat familiar hands

by Douglas Reynolds

The Friends' objective of "protecting Richmond Park as a place of natural beauty and public pleasure" would not be achievable without the work of the staff who are responsible for grounds maintenance. Up to March 1992, the staff were employed by the Royal Parks Agency or its predecessors. Since then, contractors have been appointed to take responsibility for the maintenance work.

On 1 March 2006, a firm called "fountains" became the fourth contractors since 1992. Many Friends were concerned that maintenance might deteriorate as the Parks were not responsible directly for the staff, particularly for those employed in the Isabella Plantation. It is therefore pleasing to note that this has not occurred, and that many of the staff who have worked in the Park for years are still there, having transferred from one contractor to another.

Since its inception nearly 50 years ago, fountains has had many activities, including managing woodland, maintaining grounds and controlling vegetation. Its responsibility in relation to Richmond Park includes: grass cutting; litter collection; maintenance of the Isabella Plantation; Pembroke Lodge garden

users. As far as fitting or using a bell is concerned I don't believe it is deemed cool to do so. I think that if the cycle corridors are to work safely and not spoil the area (be it canal towing path or beautiful parkland) then there have to be rules and "cycling wardens" to enforce them.

maintenance; preservation of wildlife habitats; promotion of nature conservation; the shire horses; seasonal bedding; special events; sports pitch management; and tree care..

fountains also recruits, trains and develops staff — it is vital that young people learn the necessary skills to be able to maintain and preserve the Park in the future. As a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a National Nature Reserve, Richmond Park requires special care, and fountains recognise that their service delivery includes managing the exceptional requirement of these designations.

Although the staff responsible for maintenance are employed by fountains, any queries should be addressed to Simon Richards (Park Superintendent) or his assistants, Jo Scrivener or Adam Curtis.

You can email them at richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk, or telephone 020 8948 3209.

*Douglas G. Reynolds is a Vice President of the Friends*

*"many of the staff who have worked in the Park for years are still there"*

## White Ash Lodge and the English love of deer parks

by David McDowall

To follow the article on the history of Holly Lodge in our last issue, David McDowall tells the story of White Ash Lodge.

White Ash Lodge is of approximately the same vintage as Holly Lodge, having been built in the 1730s or 1740s, and was designated as the deputy keeper's lodge from an early date. The first inhabitant on record was a Samuel Hayes, of whom we know nothing. In 1787 Hayes was joined by a young man, James Sawyer, who had been recommended by the Marquis of Lothian. Sawyer's father was deer keeper to the Duke of Rutland at Clevely, and James was keen to follow in this tradition if possible.

In fact the Sawyers had been engaged in deer-keeping for generations. There had been a craze for deer parks among the landed gentry in the sixteenth century. In 1549 a Frenchman surmised that there were as many deer in England as people in France. A much-

travelled contemporary reckoned that England probably had as many deer parks as the rest of Europe put together. Queen Elizabeth had no fewer than 200 deer parks of her own. This suggests that the desire for this fashion accessory had reached obsessive proportions. Clearly the Sawyer family throve on this deer-park fever.

It will be recalled from the previous article on Holly Lodge that James Sawyer had moved to the Head Keeper's (now Holly) Lodge in 1795, because John Lucas was too young to take over from his father. When James Sawyer himself died in 1825, it was only proper for John Lucas to be offered the post of Head Keeper which had been denied him 30 years earlier. Lucas declined the offer, in favour of James Sawyer's own son. He apparently could not bear to think of James Sawyer's widow and family out of their home of 30 years. He may well have been in part motivated by his own sense of loss in being moved out of Holly



White Ash Lodge today

Lodge in 1795. At any rate, he had supped at their table as a virtual family member and vice versa, and he was evidently an honourable man. One should take note, for such magnanimous conduct today would widely be seen as exceptional, almost eccentric.

We do not know precisely when John Lucas died – perhaps around 1850, but we do know that his place was taken by his son, also a John Lucas, who retired in 1877. This brought to an end an association with the Lucas family which had begun a century and a half earlier. Who now can boast a family tradition like this? Next time you pass White Ash Lodge, spare a thought for the Sawyer and Lucas families at



Southeast facade

Holly and White Ash lodges who so often ate together across four generations.

*David McDowall's "Richmond Park: The Walker's Guide", available from most local bookshops @ £6.99 or direct from [www.davidmcdowall.com](http://www.davidmcdowall.com)*

### Police news in brief

*Peter Burrows-Smith reports some new developments discussed at the latest "Parkwatch" meeting (in February).*

- \* There is a plan to get some of the Park police out of their cars and onto bikes. This is expensive and takes time to set up – the bikes cost about £500 each and officers have to be formally trained.
- \* The Park police are setting up a Park User Community Panel to work with them. A wide variety of people have been invited to join, including representatives from cycling organisations, horse riders, local councils, and the Friends of Richmond Park.
- \* The Park's new Inspector, Mark Foden, is himself Chairman of the Metropolitan Police's cycling club and also a birdwatcher!

*The next Parkwatch is on Thursday 14 June.*

**Learning about the Park on our free walks**

During the autumn and winter our walks regularly attracted some 60 people. Walkers are regularly offered a choice. On a warm day in early October, for example, we could choose between observing deer with Park Superintendent Simon Richards (see last newsletter) or setting off on a "Walk round the Walls" led by Friends' Chairman John Collier. Some 13 souls managed the whole walk round the walls. The following weekend walkers had the good fortune to see a Marsh Harrier during the "Autumn Bird Special". Records tell us this was only the third sighting in 10 years. It was migrating south, probably to breed in reedbeds on the coast.

These free guided walks continue this spring and summer, with a different wildlife option each month. Watch our newsletters, bulletins and website ([www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)) as well as the Park notice-boards for the latest information. We are currently investigating a series of night time "stargazing" walks later in the year. With unpredictable weather/cloud cover we'll have to arrange a "plan B" each night, which could be owls or just "the sounds of the night" !

**Education news**

The Friends of Richmond Park have become members of the Richmond Schools Environment Forum. During 2007 we will be investigating how we can develop relationships with local schools, parents and children to increase understanding of the importance of protecting the Park. If you have any suggestions, please send them to [Karen.rockell@btinternet.com](mailto:Karen.rockell@btinternet.com).

**Extended courses programme**

We also now have an extended wildlife course programme – see opposite page for dates and subjects.

**Friends' annual lunch**

A date for your diaries: the Friends' annual lunch will take place on Thursday 15 November. Guest speaker: Sam Walters, Artistic Director of the Orange Tree Theatre, Richmond. More details nearer the time.

**Friends of Richmond Park subscriptions**

Subscription rates are £6 individuals, £10 households, and £10 societies. If you have any queries about membership, please ring Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623. Or email Sheila at: [sheila.hamilton@frp.org.uk](mailto:sheila.hamilton@frp.org.uk).

**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)

**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 Repsch; Karen Rockell; Mary Thorpe

Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

**Events**

**22 May, 11am:**  
Pembroke Lodge

**The history, flora and fauna of the Park.** A free illustrated talk by Doug Reynolds. Room open from 10.30am to 2pm for guests to purchase their own refreshments and be sociable before/after the talk. For further information, contact Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623.

**5 June, 7pm:**  
Pembroke Lodge

**Reflections of Richmond Park** – poetry, music and recitals about the Park. Tickets £30 including supper and wine. For information & tickets see [www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk](http://www.thehollylodgecentre.org.uk), tel. 020 8948 3209 ext. 259, or email: [hlcinfo@hollylodgecentre.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:hlcinfo@hollylodgecentre.wanadoo.co.uk)

**21 June, 7pm:**  
The Royal Ballet School, White Lodge

**Performance by leading students** in Margot Fonteyn Studio, preceded by a champagne reception in the Salon. Tickets £30 including drinks and canapes. For info and tickets see above.

*All proceeds from preceding two events go to the Holly Lodge Centre, a registered charity that helps children, especially those with special needs, to appreciate the Park.*

**Friends' walks and courses**

Walks	Date	Starting and finishing at
Anybody is welcome to join our free guided walks. There is usually a choice between wildlife and 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 8392 9888.	3 Mar, 10 am	Roehampton Gate car park (incl. Pen Ponds nature trail option)
	17 Mar, 10 am	COURSE: Spring Birds – booking required 020 8878 5835. Meet at Pembroke Lodge
	7 Apr, 10 am	Robin Hood Gate car park (incl. skylarks option)
	28 Apr, <u>8 am</u>	Pembroke Lodge car park: Spring Birdsong special
	5 May, 10 am	Broomfield Hill car park (incl. Isabella Plantation and photography)
	19 May, 10 am	COURSE: Invertebrates – booking required 020 8878 5835. Meet at Pembroke Lodge
	2 Jun, 10 am	Sheen Gate car park (including acid grassland option)
	16 Jun, 10 am	COURSE: Trees – booking required 020 8878 5835. Meet at Pembroke Lodge
	7 July, 10 am	Pembroke Lodge car park (including Pembroke Lodge Gardens option)
Members only, booking essential on 020 8878 5835. Start at 10am, there is usually a 30-minute presentation indoors followed by two-hour walk in the Park.	14 July, <u>8.30 pm</u>	Evening walk – booking required 020 8878 5835. Will start from Sheen Gate car park.
	21 July, 10 am	COURSE: Butterflies – booking required 020 8878 5835. Meet at Pembroke Lodge



Contacting the Friends of Richmond Park

Hon. Secretary: Brian Baker

203 Park Road, Kingston upon Thames, KT2 5JY

Tel: 020 8546 3109

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