

The Friends of Richmond Park



Winners of children's photography competition
View from King Henry's Mound threatened again
Lord Rix: living near the Park for more than 50 years
A ghost in the Park: where was the Old Lodge?
White butterfly at home in the Park

We had such a wealth of contributions for this edition that I left myself no space for an editorial! There are so many "firsts" this time – results of our first ever children's photography competition; messages from both outgoing and incoming chairmen; Lord (Brian) Rix on what the Park means to him; a diamond wedding anniversary; and a brand new information centre in the Park run by the Friends. But first, we have a request: please take a few minutes to think about what matters most to you in the Park...

Alison Donaldson
alison@donaldson.demon.co.uk

The Park – what matters most?

If you were to name what it is about Richmond Park that makes it special, in other words its "crown jewels", what would these be? Similarly, what would your answers be if asked about the biggest threats to the Park? The Friends were established to "encourage

Concluding thoughts from John Collier

I became a Friend of Richmond Park a few years ago because I love the Park and wanted to do "something" to help. But I didn't know what. I knew that the Friends was a campaigning body, which I liked, but I had not appreciated how, in the eyes of many outsiders, it was seen as being "anti-traffic". This was often to the detriment of all the other things it did and stands for. So when I became Chairman, three years ago, the Committee gradually changed the emphasis from being against traffic (or anything else for that matter) to being for the Park.

And I think it has worked. We have a much broader, active membership and our concerns are now much more than just traffic. The challenge now is to reconcile all the different users' wants and needs

preservation of the Park", but what does this mean in practice? What are the main priorities?

To get the ball rolling, members of the Committee recently met specially to generate an initial list of "threats" and "jewels" of Richmond Park. Enclosed with this newsletter is the list we came up with. We hope it will act as a starting point for discussion with our members. Even within the Friends, there are many different opinions on a wide range of subjects. We would therefore like to invite all our members to contribute to the debate. Please send us your own "gems and threats", either by post, using the form on the reverse of the list to Jackie Grimes, 36 Burton Road, Kingston KT2 5TF, or by email to Jackie@grimesfamily.co.uk. Please reply by the end of September to take this chance to influence the future direction of the Friends.

(walkers, drivers, cyclists, naturalists, dogs, etc, etc) whilst still preserving the Park as it is. Its existence as we know it is constantly challenged, with one of the most important threats being lack of funding from central government. This makes the Royal Parks Agency seek commercial sources of income that are often inimical to the Park.

I've no simple answers but we must keep up the pressure and keep telling everyone who will listen what a wonderful asset we have, how unique and special it is and how we must all do whatever we can to fight for it.

I think the new Committee, under Ron Crompton's leadership, shares these views. I really do wish him and his Deputy Chairs, Sheila Hamilton and Peter Burrows-Smith, well. They have my full support.

John Collier

Magic view of St Paul's under threat again

I am delighted to be taking over from John Collier. He has done a superb job as Chairman, and the Friends is in excellent health as a result of his efforts, and those of the other members of the Committee and all our volunteers.

I have lived in Sheen for 25 years now, and Richmond Park has become a very special part of my life. The Constitution of the Friends summarises our objectives well: "to encourage the preservation of Richmond Park for the enjoyment of the public... the peace and natural beauties of the Park and the protection of trees, plant, bird and animal life". That must always be our first priority.

It is disappointing to write my first letter about a threat to that preservation. Many of you will know King Henry's Mound in the grounds of Pembroke Lodge, where (it is said) Henry VIII stood watching for the sign from St

Paul's that Anne Boleyn had been executed at the Tower, and that he was free to marry Jane Seymour.

The vista from King Henry's Mound to St Paul's remains, framed by an avenue of trees planted in 1710, soon after the completion of St Paul's (see photograph). The vista is protected; no buildings over 200 feet high can be constructed within a width of 488 feet (149m) around the vista. Nine other views from Greenwich, Primrose Hill, Alexandra Palace and elsewhere are similarly protected.

When Ken Livingstone published his draft London Plan in 2002, these views were not included for protection. After protests, the protection was re-instated. Now, Livingstone's London View Management Framework (LVMF) proposes to reduce the width from 149m to 70m, and increase the height of the buildings allowed, as part of his push to increase the number of high-rise offices in London.

Livingstone consulted London Boroughs and other bodies on the proposals, but then largely ignored the objections. His proposals have now been accepted by Office for London, the central government department which oversees the Greater London Authority, and in principle come into effect in mid-July. Various bodies, including English Heritage and The Royal Parks, are protesting the decision.

Livingstone's own draft LVMF in 2005 described the view from King Henry's Mound this way: "the viewer experiences the intimate scale and rural nature of the location, quite removed from urban central London. Very



Patrick Eagar

little intervening development can be seen between the trees in the foreground and the landmark, and all visible development is entirely subordinated to the form of the lantern, dome, drum and peristyle of the Cathedral. Such is the distance of this view, atmospheric conditions have a magic effect on its visibility. In consideration of its future backdrop, therefore, the dome should always be seen against the sky".

This "magic effect" is what is now being threatened. I urge all Friends to write both to Ken Livingstone and to their MPs. Please copy me on any of your letters or emails, and I will ensure that they also get passed on to the relevant councils and The Royal Parks.

Results of first ever children's photography competition



Ken Livingstone's address is: Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, Greater London Authority, City Hall, The Queen's Walk, London SE1 2AA. Or email to: mayor@london.gov.uk

The 3 main MPs locally are:

- Kingston & Surbiton: Edward Davey MP
- Putney: Justine Greening MP
- Richmond Park: Susan Kramer MP

All of them have websites on which you can post your letter. Alternatively, write to them at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Ron Crompton
ron.crompton@frp.org.uk
143 Palewell Park, London SW14 8JJ

The striking photo on this page and on the front and back covers of this publication were taken by three talented young photographers who won first prizes in our first ever children's photography competition this spring. Members of the Friends' Committee have been looking for some time at ways to involve the younger members of the community. We received more than 70 entries from 3-18 year-olds, capturing diverse views of the Park, the deer, birds, plants and trees. In the words of Joanna Jackson, one of the judges: "The standard was exceptionally high and we were spoiled for choice in all of the age groups. ."

Under 7 years Winner:

"Quack, Quack, Quack" by Freya Spurling (left)

8-12 years Winner:

"Rush Hour" by Jenny Rogal (front cover)

13-18 years Winner:

"A Glimpse" by Jack McDonald (back cover)

What the Park means to me

by Lord Rix Kt CBE DL

I am very honoured to be the Patron of the Friends of Richmond Park as my wife, Elspet, and I have been fortunate to live next to (or close to) the Park for more than 53 years and at all times – and in all seasons – it has always given us the greatest pleasure to walk in its glorious space. In earlier days we cycled there as well but now, alas, advancing years have made my forays into the Park rare occasions – but Elspet still walks there as often as she can.

Elspet and I first came to live in London in 1950 when I brought Reluctant Heroes to the Whitehall Theatre, but it was four years before we could afford a house in Roehampton Gate. Then, in 1954, we had prospered at the Whitehall and our ambition to be close to Richmond Park became a reality. Our first daughter, Shelley, had been born in 1951 when we had a flat in Holland Park, but our second daughter, Louisa, was lucky enough to arrive when she could be pushed out in her pram into the truly rural atmosphere of Richmond Park – whilst our large and friendly golden labrador, Bastien, could romp through the bracken without a care in the world – whereas in Holland Park he always had to be on a lead. Mind you, that constraint applied to Richmond Park in the summer months as well for, in those days, the Park was overrun by grazing sheep from spring to autumn – and there is nothing more tempting to a high-spirited labrador than the idea of rounding up a flock of bleating, woolly quadrupeds.

Four years after moving into Roehampton Gate, we were able to buy a much larger house around the corner in Roedean Crescent

where we had to pay the "deer-leap" tax, for one side of our very large garden abutted the long wall surrounding the Park, whilst the end of the garden was edged by Beverley Brook and Palewell Common. What an idyllic setting in which to bring up a growing family. Our two sons, Jamie and Jonathan, were born shortly after our move into York House – a name we had inherited from the



previous owner, who had made his fortune out of York stone and used his house as an additional means of advertising! Luckily, the name suited me personally, for I am a Yorkshireman and my education took place at Bootham School in York. It would have been more difficult to find a house name to suit Elspet, for she was born in Inverness and spent many of her formative years in India: Invercutta or Delhiness hardly fall trippingly off the tongue.

Next door to York House was an acre of land belonging to the Maharajah of Baroda. It had been bought by the grandfather of the present incumbent for he intended to build a house there and keep his polo ponies at Roehampton Club. This never came to fruition and eventually the land became mine by sheer chance. In June 1960 I was playing cricket for the Lord's Taverners at Sunbury and one of the umpires was the old Lancashire and England wicket-keeper, George Duckworth. That year the Indians were the touring cricket side and George was their baggage man and scorer. I knew that the Indian team manager was the Maharajah of Baroda – the grandson of the man who had bought that acre – so in a

pause after I had taken a wicket I was chatting to George and asked him what sort of bloke the Maharajah was.

"Oh, HH is a gradely chap," replied George.

"Well if he's all that gradely, George, would you ask him if he'd like to sell me the land at the side of my house?"

"I'll do that," said George. "I'll ask him tomorrow."

And he did. A note arrived at my house advising me to phone HH (His Highness, I suppose that means) at his hotel. I did and a gentleman with a very pronounced Indian accent eventually came on the line.

"I did not even know I had any land in Roehampton. Goodness gracious, my grandfather was a very profligate man."

"Well what the eye never sees, the heart never grieves," was my highly original riposte, "so can we do a deal?"

"I will send my agent round tomorrow and he will advise me."

The Old Lodge – one of the Park's ghosts

by David McDowall

Unless you look extremely carefully, you will find no trace of the Old Lodge, once an important building in the Park. It stood at the foot of Spanker's Hill, facing the Pen Ponds, just above the road between the car park and the White Lodge. There are traces of what looks like its well on the wooded slopes, just above where the Old Lodge stood, and one can come across the occasional brick.

There must have been buildings here in the Middle Ages, for it was a small farm called Hartington Combe, held by Merton Priory,

The next morning a blond, heavily moustached Englishman arrived at the door with an ex-Indian Army accent which nearly throttled him. He couldn't have been more helpful, though, and within half an hour we had settled a price at the ludicrously low figure of £6,500 – and that was very low for an acre of land in London with building permission for two houses even in 1960. If you think the completion of the sale went as quickly though, you would be wrong. It took a year to go through, for it turned out that the Indian Government now owned the land and there was much to-ing and fro-ing between Delhi and London before the High Commissioner eventually signed the contract. It was worth the wait, though, for we transformed it to a kitchen garden, a swimming pool, a tennis court and a cricket net. I'm not sure how many tennis and cricket balls landed over the wall in Richmond Park itself. More than the deer leaping the other way, that's for sure.

second only to Southwark in importance among the religious houses of Surrey. Following the dissolution of religious foundations during Henry VIII's reign, the farm came into secular ownership, and in 1605 the freeholder, John Evelyn (presumably father of the great diarist) sold it to George Cole. By this time the name had corrupted into "Hartleton".

In the 1630s George's son, Gregory, was the freeholder and farmer here. His lands extended across Spanker's Hill to Beverley Brook, and he also held another sizeable

chunk of land stretching more or less up to Ladderstile Gate, in all about 235 acres. Cole also held land down in Petersham, together with his principal residence, but the story there can await another issue. Suffice it to say that Cole felt coerced and bitter at his ejection from his inheritance.

We know this because in noting the adverse effect Charles' act of enclosure had on his popularity, one of his principal ministers, Lord Clarendon, remarked that "a Gentleman, who had the best Estate, with a convenient House and Gardens [in Petersham], would by no means part with it." That must have been Gregory Cole. His reaction was understandable. Which of us would surrender our birthright under coercion, even at a generous price?

We have a rough idea of the farmhouse and outbuildings, since these were drawn on the 1637 enclosure map, when Charles I created his deer park. They were probably Tudor or early Jacobean, but if the depictions on the map are at all trustworthy, the impression is one of timber-framed buildings, probably filled with wattle and daub and thatched, the bog-standard Tudor method of domestic building.

The fact that one of the two deputy park keepers appointed by the king, a man called Humfry Rogers, of whom we know nothing, immediately rebuilt the house with an allowance of £290, (roughly £25,000 in today's terms) indicates the state of the old farm buildings. In fact Rogers ran substantially over budget, probably spending more than £500.



The Old Lodge by Francis Grose, c.1760 (Reproduced courtesy of Local Studies Collection, London Borough of Richmond upon Thames)

We always want more space if we can afford it. When the avid deer hunter and prime minister to George I and II, Robert Walpole, repaired Hartleton Lodge, he added two wings, as a depiction c. 1760 by the antiquary, Francis Grose, indicates. By now the name Hartleton Lodge had given way to "the Old Lodge", to differentiate it from the New or White Lodge, completed in 1727.

We have another depiction dated 1780 which shows the pond, and provides a closer view of the work done to the house in the eighteenth century. However, with the creation of the White Lodge, the sovereign's hunting lodge, the Old Lodge began its slow decline. It remained in use and inhabited into the nineteenth century, but by the late 1830s was empty and derelict and so demolished.

The Old Lodge remains one of the "ghosts" of the Park. Once I had learnt what stood on the slopes of Spanker's Hill, I could not forget. Every time I walk that way, I find it impossible not to see the Old Lodge in my mind's eye.

David McDowall's "Richmond Park: The Walker's Guide", available from most local bookshops @ £6.99 or direct from www.davidmcdowall.com

Only white butterfly truly resident in Park's grassland

Text and photos by Piers Eley



The Green-veined White, *Artogeia napi*, is the only member of the family of white butterflies, the Pieridae, that is truly resident in the acid grassland of Richmond Park and, as such, deserves to be better known. It is a quite small, beautifully marked white butterfly, not quite as large as the smaller of our two "Cabbage Whites": the Small White, *Artogeia rapae*; but larger than the more dramatically marked Orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*, to which it is closely related. Both of these are also regular visitors here.

It is of course only the male Orange-tip that sports the striking orange tips to its wings that give it its name. The topside of the female Orange-tip's wings are almost pure white, very like the wings of the male Green-veined White, but with larger and more distinct black markings.

On the right are a female Orange-tip and a male Green-veined White. It is not surprising that these butterflies are so similar, as the caterpillars of both species live on Crucifers, plants related to Water-cress. In our area,



Orange-tips strongly favour Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*), while Green-veined Whites prefer Cuckoo Flower/Lady's Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*). Garlic Mustard, which is also a preferred source of nectar for the Orange-tip butterfly, is a rarity in the Park,



though very common immediately outside its walls, presumably because it is a favourite snack for the deer. So, while Orange-tips breed along the river and along the outside edges of the Park, I have yet to find them breeding in the Park and, if they do, it will almost certainly be along one of these edges or inside an enclosure, where it is safe from the deer!

Cuckoo Flower or Lady's Smock, on the other hand, is the pretty pinky-white flower that you will see in small quantities beside every pond and ditch in the Park, ideally placed for the Green-veined White, which likes a damp environment. The Green-veined White also lays its eggs on the related Wavy Bittercress (*Cardamine flexuosa*) which is a common plant in the same damp areas of the Park.

The easiest way to distinguish between these two small white butterflies, and the Small White itself, is by looking at their underwings. The underside of the Orange-tip's wings has a complicated pattern of green hatching, with an orange overtone. The Green-veined White (above centre), has smoky black or dark-green



markings along the veins of its underwing, with a more or less yellowish background colour. The Small White has a stronger yellow background, often with a dusting of grey on top, but no colouration of the veins and no hatch-marks.

Both the Small White and the Large White, which is similar but much larger, are strong, fast fliers that one sees flying rapidly across the Park, from one vegetable garden to another, with only a very occasional stop to sup nectar from some flower – brambles are a favourite.

The Green-veined White by contrast has a weaker more fluttering flight and, especially in the case of the female, is constantly stopping to investigate the plants over which it is passing, in search of suitable hosts for its eggs, which are laid singly. It is one of our earlier butterflies, with the first brood emerging from hibernating chrysalises in April and May. The eggs laid by this brood form thin-shelled chrysalises, not designed to over-winter, from which the second brood will emerge in July/August.

Look out for these beautiful butterflies in the damper shaded areas along the edges of grass and woodlands and along stream-beds. On the left, as a farewell gesture, is a photograph I took in early May of a newly-emerged male Green-veined White on a Dandelion by Conduit Stream in the North West corner of the Park. Good Hunting!

Piers Eley
Chairman, Richmond Park Wildlife Group
Chairman, Butterfly Recording Group

A S Byatt appreciates Richmond Park

The Times of June 1 had a feature on the 30 best walks in Britain, chosen by famous writers. A S Byatt chose Richmond Park, commenting: "I love its variety of landscapes – small woods, rough open rides with bracken, brooks with lines of archetypal willows lovely shapes leafless in winter. The sense of separation of the park from the city and its intimate relation with it is complicated and easy – both have been there so long."

Deer lives saved by 20 mph limit

Many Friends will have experienced the 20 mph speed limit in the Park. At first, many drivers seemed to ignore it, but now there is greater adherence, and the average speed seems to have fallen from over 35 to 25-30 mph, with many drivers going at 20-25.

A large benefit is that the number of deer killed by cars has reduced from 8-10 a year before the 20 mph limit (in really bad years 20-30 have been killed) to 3-4 now – still not low enough but a big improvement.

*Ron Crompton
Chairman*

Gaymer is sadly missed

7th May 2007 was a sad day for all of those who had worked with or known Gaymer the horse, who died of natural causes at a good age.

Gaymer started life 25 years ago as a brewer's horse, taking his name from the cider brewery he worked for. After a spell working in forestry he came to the Royal Parks in 1993 and has been based in Richmond Park ever since. He worked daily on the 2500-acre National Nature Reserve doing a variety of tasks including grass cutting, bracken rolling, timber extraction and general estate work. Even when semi-

retired his steady personality made him a favourite at shows and special duties.

During his career Gaymer attended local fetes and heavy horse events, and even carried the remains of Long-Wolf, a Native American chief who was exhumed from Brompton cemetery to be returned to Dakota USA. Gaymer also spent more than four months helping to remove the mountain of flowers left in memory of Princess Diana.

A special thanks goes to the Gaymers Cider Brewery for donating some of their apple trees, and some cider, so we could plant a small orchard and raise a glass in celebration of Gaymer's life in Richmond Park.

*Adam Curtis
Assistant Manager, Richmond Park*



Community Panel keeping eye on new policing arrangements

by Peter Burrows-Smith

The Park police have recently been reorganised into a "Safer Parks Team" (similar to the Safer Neighbourhood Team you may have come across in your local area). This means that the transitional co-policing arrangements involving the Metropolitan Police Service ("the Met") and the Royal Parks Constabulary (RPC) have come to an end and the Met is now fully responsible for policing the Park.

As reported in the last newsletter, a Community Panel has been set up representing local interested parties, such as cyclists and wildlife groups. It now has 12 members but has space for additional representation. The Friends will be represented by Friends committee member John Collier and myself. I have agreed to share the Panel chairmanship on a rotating basis, with Daniel Hearsom taking the chair for the first year.

The Panel will identify the priority policing issues in the Park and then work with the Safer Parks Team to ensure they are tackled effectively. The Safer Parks Team currently consists of up to eight people, including a number of Community Support Officers (CSOs), some of whom are very interested in wildlife, which is helpful. The senior officer responsible for both Richmond and Bushy Parks is Inspector Mark Foden.

For my part, I shall initially be focusing on "preserving the peace and beauty of the Park, with special attention to the rich flora and fauna". This will cover issues such as the skylark exclusion zone, "off-piste" cycling, illegal barbecues, and fungi picking.

The biggest issue at present is communication. Visitors to the Park need to be able to contact the police if they spot someone contravening the Park regulations – e.g. lighting a barbecue, cycling off the designated tracks, failing to control their dog – or if they witness a crime (thankfully, relatively rare in the Park). More particularly, they should be able to contact someone who understands the Park and can record the precise location of any incident so that someone can investigate it.

"Visitors to the Park need to be able to contact the police if they spot someone contravening Park regulations."

Under the new arrangements, telephone calls get channeled to one of the Met's call centres. Communication was easier in the RPC era as the operators had knowledge of the Royal Parks. The Panel is therefore pressing for the operators to be trained about the different priorities of the Royal Parks.

If you need to report an incident, the number to ring is 020 7706 7272, or 999 in an emergency. The police officers on the ground in the Park want to hear from people – members of the public provide them with extra eyes and ears in the Park. However, recent experience suggests that the current telephone system is far from satisfactory.

One piece of good news is that Inspector Foden has managed to arrange for six police horses to be stabled in the Park at Holly Lodge for six weeks from mid-July. This is an excellent start to improving policing in the Park and we hope that this six-week period can be extended.

*Peter Burrows-Smith is
a Vice-Chairman of the Friends*

Diamond for Doug and Doris

by Michael Davison



Doris and Doug with Mayor of Kingston Councillor Mary Reid on 3 May 2007

Hearty congratulations to Douglas Reynolds, much-loved Vice-President and stalwart of the Friends of Richmond Park, and his wife Doris on their diamond wedding anniversary, which they celebrated on 3 May. The occasion was marked with a visit from the Mayor of Kingston and a card from the Queen and Prince Philip, who also celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary this year.

Douglas has been a member of the Friends for more than 20 years, and was chairman for six years, from 1993 to 1999. During this time he has given an amazing total of 460 slide lectures spreading his love and knowledge of the history and wildlife of the Park to a wide range of audiences – the latest of these was given to an appreciative group of Friends at Pembroke Lodge on 22 May. At 86, Douglas remains a regular leader of our monthly Saturday morning walks.

Born and bred in Tolworth, Douglas worked for the railways for 44 years. His first job was in the booking office in Kingston Station, and he rose to become accountant to the chief signalling engineer for Southern Rail before retirement.

The romance between Douglas and Doris started by correspondence in 1944 while they were both serving in the Royal Air Force. Doris, working in England for Fighter Command, responded to a newspaper appeal for a "pen pal" from a lonely airman stationed in Italy, and the long-distance friendship flourished. The pen pals first met in 1946, and married in 1947.

After leaving the RAF Douglas became a local councillor in Kingston in 1950, and later a magistrate. He and Doris became Deputy Mayor and Mayoress in 1968, and then the borough's first Labour Mayor and Mayoress from 1974-75.

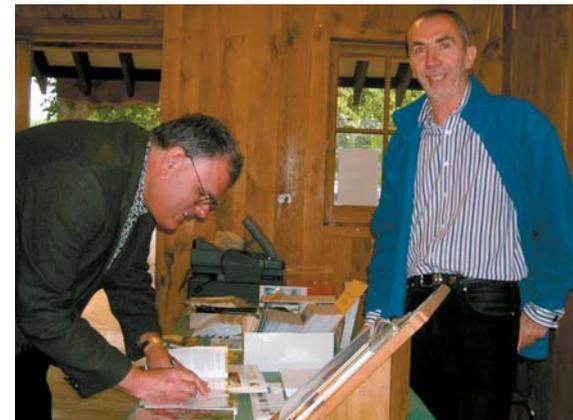
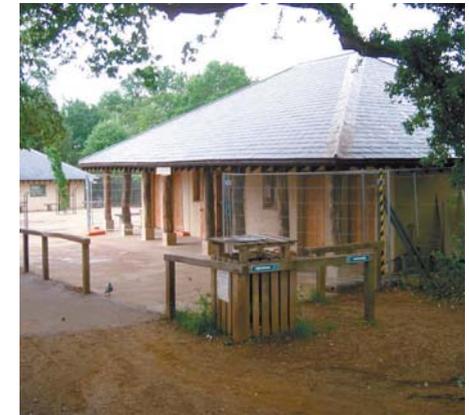
It was through Doris that Douglas was introduced to the Friends of Richmond Park. Arranging guest speakers for a club for handicapped people, Doris invited a founder member of the Friends, Gerald Green, to give a talk. She invited Douglas to come along and hear the talk, Douglas met Gerald . . . and the rest is history!

On their wedding anniversary the Mayor, Councillor Mary Reid, visited Douglas and Doris at Coombe Hill Nursing Home, where Doris has been living since suffering a stroke last year. Appropriately, Douglas describes the secret of a happy marriage as "getting along and being active".

Michael Davison leads walks for the Friends

Friends now staffing information centre every weekend

Designed to fit in with its surroundings, the new Richmond Park Information Point is now staffed every weekend by volunteers trained by the Friends. The building is constructed of natural materials including wood from Windsor Great Park. You can find it in the Pembroke Lodge car park. Pembroke Lodge restaurant, car park and gardens now receive some 300,000 visitors a year, up from 50,000 just 10 years ago. If you would like to become a volunteer, please contact Brian Baker on 020 8546 3109 or email him at briangbaker@beeb.net.



Volunteer with new member joining the Friends



Doors are open at weekends

Obituary – Natalie Bligh

Natalie Bligh, who died at the beginning of April aged 76, joined the Friends of Richmond Park in 1983 and was elected to the Committee in 1988. She took over from Pam Nicholson as Sales Organiser in 1990. I congratulated her in 1997 in the Friends' annual report on the dedication and enthusiasm that she had given to providing suitable goods for sale and this she did for a further five years until 2002. Attending Natalie's funeral on 18 April at Mortlake Crematorium were Roy Conway-Smith (past Chairman), Bob Smith (past Vice-Chairman and Social Secretary) and myself.

Douglas Reynolds, Vice President

Can you help us find "lost members"?

We are trying to identify a number of people who have joined the Friends, paying by standing order, but we have no contact details for them, as only their name appears in our bank statements. This can come about where people send their standing order mandate direct to their bank instead of returning it to our Membership Secretary, Sheila Hamilton. If you know any of the people below, could you please either ask them to get in touch with Sheila on 020 8876 2623, or let her have their details – phone number or address – and she will get in touch with them.

Mrs J Allum; S Brasher; E Brock; Dr Cmobarrow; Comerford; E J Edwards; R I Frost; M Gibson; B M Hymas; DJ Marlow; D S & J A Markwell; A A & A Matthews; L R D McLaren; Private Physio; J C & MJ Sampson; PD Smith. Plus new members in 2007: Blake & Graft; KA Hirsch; KM Sinclair.

Thank you very much indeed for any help you can give us.

Subscriptions & enquiries

Subscription rates: £6 individuals, £10 households and societies. All membership enquiries to Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623.

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
Web: www.royalparks.gov.uk

Rough guide to the night sky

We are planning a series of night "stargazing" walks at the end of the year. These will be led by a new volunteer, Teresa Grafton, who used to manage the Education Programme at the London Planetarium. Each walk will offer an introduction to the night sky, but with some variation according to what is on view at the time – the last date, for example, is the Winter Solstice, the shortest day, when Mars will be very bright.

Precise arrangements are still to be finalised, but the sessions will start on a Saturday evening at 7pm and last approximately two hours. The proposed dates are 27 October, 3 November and 22 December (we are hoping to avoid the annual deer cull!). If the sky is overcast, we will revert to "Plan B" – sounds of the night, possibly including owls. We shall be restricting each session to 20 people, and it will be members only. Advance booking is essential on 020 8878 5835.

Friends Committee

Chairman: Ron Crompton
Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith & Sheila Hamilton
Vice Presidents: Richard Carter, Douglas Reynolds, David Thorpe
Other committee members: Brian Baker (Hon. Secretary); Alison Donaldson (Newsletter Editor); John Waller (Hon. Treasurer); Ann Brown; John Collier; Jackie Grimes; Joanna Jackson; John Repsch; Karen Rockell; Mary Thorpe
Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

Events

- 19 July, 7.30pm:** St Andrews Church Hall, Ham Common **Supper evening for Richmond Park Information Centre volunteers.** Volunteers may contact Brian Baker for details and to book a place. Tel. 020 8546 3109
- 21 - 24 Sep:** Weekend in France **Visit to Fontainebleau near Paris.** Walk in the Forest, visit the Chateau, meet the Friends of Fontainebleau Forest, plus various other attractions including Sunday market, crafts, presentations on flora, fauna and forestry, and visit to mediaeval town of Moret-sur-Loing, which inspired painter Alfred Sisley. For further details, contact John Collier on 020 8940 1921.
- 15 Nov, 12.30 for 1pm:** Belvedere Room at Pembroke Lodge **Friends' annual lunch.** Speaker: Sam Walters, Artistic Director of Richmond's Orange Tree Theatre. Full information will go in the Friends' September Bulletin

Friends' walks and courses

Walks	Date	What and where
Anybody is welcome to join our free guided walks. Most walks begin at 10am and finish round midday. If you need special support or help around a walk, please ring Peter Burrows-Smith on 020 8392 9888 before the event. We are happy to make special arrangements but it will be easier to help if we know in advance. Please keep dogs under control.	7 July, 10 am	WALK: including Pembroke Lodge Gardens option. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park
	14 July, <u>8.30 pm</u>	SUMMER EVENING WALK: meet Sheen Gate car park – booking required 020 8878 5835
	21 July, 10 am	COURSE: Butterflies. Meet Pembroke Lodge – booking required 020 8878 5835
	4 Aug, 10 am	WALK: including butterfly option. Meet Kingston Gate car park
	18 Aug, 10am	COURSE: Wildlife. Meet Pembroke Lodge – booking required 020 8878 5835
	1 Sep, 10am	WALK: Meet Robin Hood Gate car park
Courses	15 Sep, 10am	COURSE: Deer. Meet Pembroke Lodge – booking required 020 8878 5835
Members only, booking essential on 020 8878 5835. Start 10am, there is usually a 30-minute talk indoors followed by two-hour walk in the Park. Fee £2.	6 Oct, 10am	WALK: including deer option. Meet Sheen Gate car park
	3 Nov, 10am	WALK: including fungi option. Meet Broomfield Hill car park



Contacting the Friends of Richmond Park

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