

The Friends of Richmond Park



Young people's photo competition results
Learning about the Park at Holly Lodge
Meet the gardeners at Pembroke Lodge
Plaque unveiled by local MP

This issue has turned out delightfully child-centred. We have our usual page for children, boosted this time by the results of the young people's photo competition, which also feature on our front and back covers; "My Richmond Park" is written by 10-year-old Katie Ramsey; we report a "Springtime Safari" event for children in Twickenham; and we have an item on Holly Lodge Centre, which teaches mainly children with special needs about the Park.

Marilyn Mason
Alison Donaldson

Photos on cover

Winners of young people's photo competition

Front:

"Firework Burst" by Miles Shacklady

Back:

"Winter Mist" by William Kaufhold

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"NNR", "SSSI", "SAC", "Red List" – what do they all mean?

by Marilyn Mason

Richmond Park is London's largest SSSI, an NNR and a European SAC. It also contains a significant number of Red Data Book species: 34 beetles found in the recent survey of veteran trees in the Park are on the Red List. What do these terms mean, and what do they mean for the Park and its visitors?

Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are the country's very best wildlife and geological sites. They support plants and animals that find it more difficult to survive in the wider countryside where they are often under pressure from development, pollution, climate change and unsustainable land management. SSSIs need active management to maintain their conservation interest, and it is illegal to carry out certain potentially damaging operations on a SSSI without consent from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, or reasonable excuse.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were established to protect nationally important areas of wildlife habitat and geological formations in Britain, and as places for scientific research. This does not mean they are "no-go areas", but it does mean that scarce and threatened habitats such as the acid grassland of the Park are carefully managed and that visitors must not damage the wildlife. All NNRs are also SSSIs and contain vulnerable habitats and species, such as the Park's beetles.

These beetles appear in the British Red Data Book, which lists categories ranging from "Endangered" (RBD1), which includes some of the Park's beetles, to "Endemic" (RBD5).

Many endangered species are also listed by the World Conservation Union (IUCN) on its annual Red List, which is recognised as the most reliable evaluation of species in need of conservation attention.

(Continued on page 7)

The "itch to improve"

Last week, I heard the good news that London's new Mayor, Boris Johnson, has pledged to protect the view of St Paul's from Richmond Park. Coincidentally, the same day I read that the Forest of Fontainebleau (twinned with Richmond Park) was the world's first nature protection zone, created in the mid-19th century largely as a result of pressure from the Barbizon painters (Millet, Corot etc), and many years before the Yellowstone National Park (created in 1872).

What do these two things have in common? Well, they both illustrate the continuing conflict between development and the "built environment" on the one hand, and preservation or the "natural environment" on the other. Mankind has an irresistible itch to develop, to improve, to build, usually at the expense of the natural environment (managed though that may be, as in Fontainebleau and Richmond Park).

We face this conflict in the Park itself. Currently we have development at the golf courses (sensitively designed with new areas for wildlife, but more built environment none the less); the Ballet School (sorely needed student accommodation, but with a big visual impact on the Park); Holly Lodge with the location of an old Victorian pharmacy there (valuable history, but greater building on the site and more traffic); a swimming pool at a privately occupied Lodge (well screened from the Park, but an odd development in a National Nature

Reserve); and a new restaurant and visitor centre at Roehampton Gate (likely to be well designed, but intruding into the Park and creating more visitors, many coming just to eat).

And so it goes on – a steady nibbling away at the Park's natural feel, urbanising it by stages, satisfying man's itch to improve and build. Each development may be justified and relatively minor, but cumulatively they result in a steady erosion of what makes the Park unique.

In saying this, I am not harking back to the past. In the 1920s and 1930s, the Park was much more of an amusement park, with a funfair and bandstands, and I have no wish to recreate that. The Friends concern to preserve the Park looks to the future, and fits with a broader trend. The movement to protect the natural environment has grown rapidly, from the creation of the first nature protection zone at Fontainebleau 150 years ago to current attempts to halt the decline of the world's rain forests. The Friends founding in 1961 was part of that movement and we should be proud of it.



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



Photo: Patrick Eagar

New Mayor's promise on St Paul's view

Former Mayor Ken Livingstone's policy of encouraging new tall office buildings in the capital threatened the view of St Paul's from King Henry's Mound (and other views around London). At *Mayor's Question Time* recently, new Mayor Boris Johnson stated unequivocally that he was going to "restore" the strategic viewing corridors to their original protection, adding that he wanted to preserve historic buildings from being "salami-sliced" by skyscrapers. The decision is still subject to final approval by the Secretary of State, but is in line with the new Mayor's manifesto commitment. The Friends campaigned against Livingstone's decision, and are delighted that it has been reversed so soon.

Isabella wins prizes

The Isabella team won two first prizes, three seconds and one third prize at the RHS Spring Show. Anyone who has visited the Isabella Plantation recently will know that these were well deserved. The wet spring has meant an exceptionally good year for the Isabella Plantation and the Park's bluebells.



Refurbishments and repairs

In the next few months the Richmond Gate Lodge and Folly will be refurbished, and Ladderstile, Cambrian and Bishops-gate pedestrian gates will be repaired.

Closer, but not that close

The Oak Processionary Moth, which can seriously damage oak trees and cause allergic reactions in humans, has now reached Sheen Common. The good news is that it has not yet been seen in the Park, despite an alarming report on the *Surrey Comet* website. Park staff are on the look-out for it, and illustrated information for Park visitors on what to look for is on Park notice boards.

Cattle numbers to grow?

The two visiting cattle will remain in their enclosure near Holly Lodge until their owner wants them back. It is too early yet to see any effects of their winter grazing on the grassland eco-system (see last newsletter). Though the experiment had to begin cautiously, it is clear now that the enclosure could support more cattle and Park management hope to obtain some more in due course.

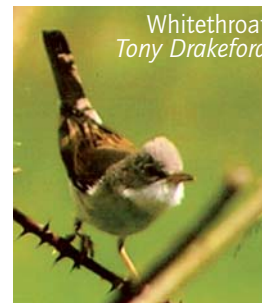
Larks and Cuckoos doing well

There has been a dramatic increase in the number of Skylarks nesting in the Park. A recent survey indicated that there were an estimated 20 pairs in 12 different locations in the Park – almost seven times the 2002 figure. As the numbers have increased, Skylarks have moved beyond their Protection Zone and are now breeding throughout the Park.

Walks leader Peter Burrows-Smith reported hearing a Cuckoo in the Park early in the morning of 27 April, and other walkers have heard it too. Peter wondered if the "Cuckoo nesting boxes" announced on Park notice boards at the beginning of April were proving a good idea after all.

Dawn chorus walk

Despite a few moans and groans about the early start, 17 walkers joined Peter Burrows-Smith at 5am on 5 May for a trial "Dawn Chorus" walk in the Park. Newsletter editor Alison Donaldson had cycled in the dark through the Park from Kingston to join the group! The first birds to sing were Robin, Blackbird, Wren and Song Thrush. There was also the hooting of a late Tawny Owl at East Sheen Common, and then later the sighting of a Little Owl near Holly Lodge. The Fallow Deer yapped quietly as their early morning peace was disturbed – a sound sometimes heard in the dark but rarely at this time of day. The star turn was probably the Common Whitethroats singing in the gorse enclosures. They had only been in the Park for a few days after their migration north from Africa, and the males



were busy establishing a territory and attracting a mate. It proved a very enjoyable walk and we hope to make it a regular event.

"Walk England" in the Park

Friends' Chair Ron Crompton was invited to join Minister for Transport Rosie Winterton and Minister for Health Dawn Primarolo for a half-hour walk in the Park on Wednesday 18 June, ending at Pembroke Lodge for a reception. This was to launch "Walk England", "a truly cross-Government commitment to the walking agenda", set up "to create local opportunities for people to choose to walk".

With thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith, Max Lankester and Michael Davison for their reports and photos. More Friends' news on page 10.

The other deer herd across the Thames



We are so familiar with our own precious deer in Richmond Park that it's easy to forget that less than two miles away there roams another equally spectacular herd in Bushy Park. A reminder of this wealth of local wildlife came at a "Deer Evening", jointly organised by the Friends of Richmond Park and the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks as part of the two-week Market House Festival in Kingston in April. Chris Howard of the British Deer Society, Simon Richards of Richmond Park and Ray Brodie of Bushy Park entertained and informed an audience of about 60. You can find Michael Davison's interesting report of the evening at www.frp.org.uk/articles

Friends in the news

The concern of Chair Ron Crompton that the Park is becoming a victim of its own success was reported in local papers in April. The unveiling of the plaque to John Lewis (see page 10) was reported in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* and the *Richmond Informer*, and was featured on *Green Places News*, the web-based newsletter of the Landscape Design Trust.

Holly Lodge – a hive of activity

Holly Lodge is a bit like Dr Who's Tardis in the middle of the Park – much bigger than it looks – and is home to numerous agencies: the Royal Parks administration team; buildings and works maintenance contract staff; the company "fountains", featured in our Autumn 2007 issue, who look after the gardens in the Park and deal with the litter left by visitors; the Metropolitan Police Operation Command Unit, Thames Landscape Strategy, and the Holly Lodge Centre. In its grounds are a workshop that turns some of the wood from Park trees into the posts and palings used in the Park and the two shire horses that do some of the heavy work in the Park. Holly Lodge was known as Bog Lodge for most of its history as a bog lay nearby to the North, but was rechristened in the 1990s because the word "bog" was considered unsuitable for visiting schoolchildren.

Holly Lodge Centre is the only part open to the public. It was opened in 1994 when Mike Fitt OBE, Park Manager at the time, wanted Richmond Park to be accessible to everyone, especially children and adults with special needs. The Centre offers a range of educational activities related to the natural and historical resources in the Park and has grown from strength to strength since its opening. It is run by Project Manger Dr Pat Ealey and 70 volunteers and has around 4,000 visitors each year. About 60% of visiting groups are from special needs schools, day centres and organisations; the rest are from mainstream primary schools and associations such as Scouts and Women's Institutes.

A user's perspective by Bridget Grant, teacher

Barnes Primary School is a frequent user of the educational facilities at Holly Lodge and over the last few years I have been lucky enough to have had regular trips with my classes. For some children this is their first ever visit to Richmond Park. The activities on offer normally relate to the areas we are covering in school but Pat and her team have been happy to make adjustments to accommodate our needs.

All our visits have had the same feel about them. As soon as we arrive, the children sense that this is going to be a bit of an adventure. It's not school but what is it? Pat takes us into her classroom, immediately interesting with specimens, nests, photos, paintings, other children's work and unrecognisable "things". There is always a warm welcome and anticipation of doing something a little different.

Pat always makes it a new experience: the location changes, the activities may differ a little, the worksheets never seem to be repeated. Her extensive knowledge always teaches me new things about the Park, which I think I know well, and what goes on there. On one famous occasion, Pat told us that we might find a lizard. Lizards in Richmond Park? My scepticism was dismissed by a chorus of Year 4 voices 10 minutes later. "Mrs Grant! Mrs Grant! Come and look, it's a lizard!" There it was, under the first log that had been carefully picked up in an investigation into habitats. The volunteer helpers on the team interact with the children as though each workshop were a fresh experience for them. Maybe it is!

On another visit, we lunched on the picnic benches behind the classrooms as a lovely mural was being painted. The artists explained what they were doing and how; one of them had been a primary teacher and was wonderfully indulgent to the children's enthusiastic questioning. Last summer, my Year 3 class was asked to trial a workshop in the embryonic Victorian Pharmacy. The hands-on aspect of pill and potion making proved to be an exciting and instructive activity, which I'm sure will become a regular attraction for pupils studying the Victorians.

I look forward to any visit to the Holly Lodge Centre. We always leave broadened and happy, thankful for the unique facility it provides and somehow the sun is always shining!

With thanks to Joan Braune, Trustee of the Holly Lodge Centre, for information and photo.



Children enjoying mini-beasts with teacher Bridget Grant

(SSSIs etc, continued from page 2)

In the Red List, species are classified as "Extinct" or "Extinct in the Wild", "Critically Endangered", "Endangered" or "Near Threatened". In September 2007 there were 41,415 species on the Red List with 16,306 threatened with extinction; human activity and climate change were the biggest threats to biodiversity. The Red List is intended to guide the conservation activities of governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and scientific institutions.

Areas that are internationally important for their biodiversity are designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). SACs have been given special protection under the European Union's Habitats Directive in order to provide increased protection to a variety of wild animals, plants and habitats, as part of global efforts to conserve the world's biodiversity.

The effect of all these impressive designations on visitors is that they must not do anything that would damage the Park's wildlife: for example, not light fires, move or remove wood or fungi or plants, or leave litter. Cyclists should keep to cycle paths and walkers should keep dogs under control. Despite the restrictions, it should be a matter for local pride that we have such an important and beautiful natural habitat here on our doorstep. The Friends are now using the NNR designation on their letterhead and including it in promotional material (and on the newsletter back cover).

With thanks to Dr Nigel Reeve, Community Ecologist for the Royal Parks

See also the website of Natural England www.english-nature.org.uk.

Everything in the garden is lovely

Text and photos by Michael Davison

At Poet's Corner in the grounds of Pembroke Lodge I watched gardener Sharon Evans tending the magnificent collection of irises: more than 50 different varieties, ranging from deepest purple to yellow and the most delicate peach, arranged against a cottage-garden brick wall. "I'm obsessed by irises," said Sharon.



Sharon Evans with her irises

Sharon is charge-hand of the team of five gardeners who work a five-day week round the year to maintain in tip-top condition the 11-acre gardens of Pembroke Lodge, one of the most visited areas in all London's Royal Parks, with a display that reaches the height of its summer glory from June to August. I joined the team at mid-morning break time in their "mess-room" and asked what jobs they had been doing since they started work at 7.30am.

The main task for Harvey Penn (a veteran of 15 years' service) and Alan Wilkins and Mark Diprose (5 years) had been planting out the first of some 1,500 marigolds to border the summer display in the oval bed near King Henry's Mound. Frankie Angel, in only his third week in the gardens and

enjoying the outdoor life, had begun the day with an hour of litter clearance before joining the bedding-out team. Danny Stafford, serving his apprenticeship, had made a 5am start on strimming the Park roadsides, and then mowing the lawns and grass borders in the gardens. At other seasons, other jobs beckon: pruning, hedge clipping, digging and mulching, plant dividing, lawn maintenance, leaf clearance. "There are no quiet times," they all agreed.

It was as an apprentice that Sharon, 34, started work in Richmond Park 11 years ago, learning a variety of jobs around the Park and spending two years at the Isabella Plantation before being put in charge at Pembroke Lodge. Today she was to spend hours on her knees weeding the herbaceous borders, starting with her beloved irises. The iris collection was donated in the 1990s by George



Left to right: Mark Diprose, Harvey Penn, Alan Wilkins and Frankie Angel, with Sharon Evans in front.

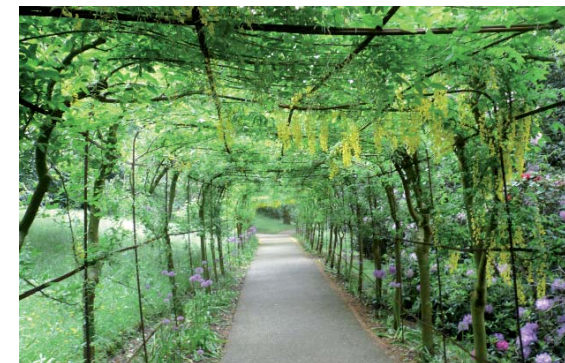
Lissaman of Sheen, and in 2003 Sharon embarked upon planting out selected varieties, identifying and labelling them with the help of 20 books on irises. Three specimens won awards at the British Iris Society show earlier this year.

My advice to summer visitors: don't miss the irises. They are located at Poet's Corner, named after poet James Thomson, near the Richmond Gate end of the gardens. To reach it from the main entrance you'll pass through two more of Pembroke Lodge's treasures: the spectacular rose garden and the shady John Beer Laburnum Walk (right).

Maintaining all these beds, lawns and borders is labour-intensive. It has taken four years of hard work, in the intervals between routine tasks, to prepare the latest attraction, The Dell, a shady woodland area at the southern end of the gardens. Here informal beds incorporate shade perennials and specimen trees and shrubs which will be at their best in spring. Through the Dell winds a path edged with cedar logs hauled by the gardeners from fallen trees near the

Dysart Gate. On the grassy slopes below I could see rabbits running about, which explains the need for wire barriers to protect the new plantings, some of which cost as much as £10 for a single bulb.

Human visitors, particularly at the weekends, can cause problems too. On occasion, children have been known to slide down the slopes and even trample through flower beds and pick flowers. It must be disheartening for the gardeners to see their work violated, but they take it in their stride. "In many ways we are the victims of our own success," was the comment of Jo Scrivener, Richmond Park Assistant Manager, whom I met in his office at Holly Lodge. Jo's training is in horticulture, so he directs operations at Pembroke Lodge and in the Isabella Plantation. In this role he complements that of fellow Assistant Park Manager Adam Curtis whose concern is with the wider, wilder areas of the Park.



Cultivating gardens that attract larger crowds every year brings the inevitable problems of combining public access with the needs of conservation. On the evidence I saw at Pembroke Lodge, Jo has a dedicated team who reconcile their duties to plants and public with ease.

Taking the Park to children



Friends volunteers Sally Fielder and Katie Ramsey at the "Springtime Safari"

In April, Friends participated in a children's "Springtime Safari", held in the grounds of Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham and organised by Richmond Environment Network, Richmond Borough Council and the Richmond Biodiversity Group. The Friends' stand showed many items found in the Park by members Susanna and Katie Ramsey (see Katie's article on next page). Children and their parents were fascinated to see items such as deer bones and owl pellets – the mass of undigested bones which owls regurgitate showing which small mammals and insects are on the owls' menu and therefore presumed to be plentiful in the Park. Karen Rockell organised the event for the Friends.

Jack Davies

We were sorry to hear of the death in March of Jack Davies, aged 102. Jack was a long-standing Friend of Richmond Park, having walked in the Park from when he was a boy right up to just before his death. He was interviewed for "My Richmond Park" for the Autumn 2007 newsletter, and spoke of his love for the Park and changes he'd observed.
Celebrating a historic milestone

On 16 May 2008 the Friends of Richmond Park and the Royal Parks celebrated the achievement of Richmond brewer John Lewis in re-establishing the right of the public to walk across the Park. (See full story by Max Lankester in our Spring 2008 issue.) A plaque was erected to Lewis at Sheen Gate, scene of both the incident in 1755 when he was denied entry and the mass entry into the Park three years later.

Around 80 people attended the ceremony, including representatives from many local societies. Susan Kramer, MP for Richmond Park, unveiled the plaque, following speeches by: Ron Crompton, Chair of the Friends; and Colin Buttery, Deputy Chief Executive of the Royal Parks. Max Lankester, Friends Committee member, gave an engaging account of John Lewis's achievement.

Following the unveiling ceremony, a party of walkers led by Peter Burrows-Smith crossed the Park to Ham Gate where refreshments were on hand for a final toast to Lewis.



Susan Kramer MP unveils plaque

See also Michael Davison's article about John Lewis: "The Princess and the Brewer" on www.frp.org.uk/articles (also published in our April 2005 newsletter).

We couldn't live without it

by 10-year-old Katie Ramsey

I've lived close to Richmond Park all my life and often walk there with our dog Daisy.

My favourite starting point is Pembroke Lodge. We go there most often. I like jumping over the ditches from Pembroke Lodge towards the Isabella. I often play 'It' with my mum, but we have special rules: you can't both be on the same bank.

My favourite wood is Queen Elizabeth Plantation. I like to look for Birch Polypore and see the red antler markings on one of the trees. I remember this wood when it was coated in snow. When I was a toddler there was a sandy ditch nearby, which I used to play in. It seemed miles away then, but now I know it's a five minute walk.

My second best area is Sheen Gate, the opposite side of the Park. I like it here because of the reservoir cover, which I call the air-raid shelter. Once I saw boys climbing up it and sliding down. Nearby there is a new pond and waterfall. Often sticks and leaves get caught in the waterfall and, using a long stick, I push them downstream. I like the pond here because I remember when my friends and I crossed it. I also like it because one Summer I made a mud pie, which two years on is still there!

My third best area is Beverley Brook, because of the river, which I have seen at Wimbledon Common where I used to walk. I like to play here in the river with my friends. Every time someone ends up getting soaked. There is a particular tree which I like to find. It has especially comfortable roots which stick out of the



Katie in the Park

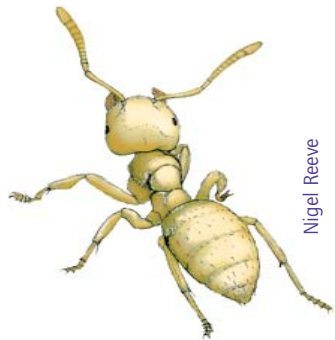
ground and make a seat for me to sit in and watch the river. Across the road there is a kestrel's nest. Once I saw the kestrel fly off its perch. I noticed its fan of tail feathers.

Other things I love in the Park are floating petals and making boats in the streams in the Isabella, watching the beautiful sunsets, hiding in the long grasses for Daisy, spotting a baby parakeet, meeting friends, hearing the woodpeckers and creeping up on the rabbits. Overall the Park is a part of our life which we could not live without.

Paddling in streams is fun, but it's best to have an adult with you when you do – water levels can rise very quickly sometimes. Streams are not always as clean as they appear, so have a good wash afterwards!

YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Karen Rockell



Nigel Reeve

Q1: Where is the best place to find ants in Richmond Park?

Q2: Which of the following are NOT insects?

(TIP: The simplest way to identify an insect is to count its legs. All insects have six at some point in their life cycle, usually as adults).

1. Beetle
2. Woodlouse
3. Butterfly
4. Centipede
5. Slug
6. Dragonfly
7. Earwig
8. Ant
9. Spider
10. Wasp

ANSWERS on page 13

News

Royal Mail have released a great new stamp series, "Action for Species".

Details can be found at: <http://www.royalmail.com/portal/stamps> or visit your local post office.



Mini-beast websites

<http://www.stagbeetlehelpline.co.uk/>
<http://www.amentsoc.org/bug-club/fun/build-bug.html>

Fun facts

A remarkable range of invertebrates lives in Richmond Park. Records so far include 139 spider species, 546 butterfly and moth species and over 1350 beetle species including one that lives on deer dung. At least 150 species of solitary bees and wasps are also to be found in the Park; most are tiny but they make distinctive burrows in sandy soils and banks – look out for them on worn sandy paths.



Winners of the young people's photo competition

sponsored by **RUSSELL-COOKE** SOLICITORS

This year's competition was as inspiring as the last. After much debate, judges Michael Walter and Su Hume agreed that first prizes should go to "Peep" by Gemma Driskell (Under 7s, right), "Firework Burst" by Miles Shacklady (7-11 years, front cover), and "Winter Mist" by William Kaufhold (12-18 years, back cover). The prize-giving ceremony was at Pembroke Lodge on 7 June. Full results are below; all the winning and commended photos can be seen at www.frp.org.uk and at local libraries and other venues (see website for details).

Under 7s

- 1st Gemma Driskell "Peep"
- 2nd Freya Spurling "Fluffy"
- 3rd Daisy Weston "Twisted Tree"

7-11-year-olds

- 1st Mile Shacklady "Firework Burst"
- 2nd Marlie Carter-Edwards "Side-By-Side"
- Joint 3rd Matthew Lawn "Snow Snow Snow"
- Lauren Walker "Heaven"

Highly Commended

- Abigail Alexander "Not At Home"
- Libby Darlington "Cute Quacklings"
- Emily Harrison "Reflections"
- Louise Kaufhold "Dozing Deer"
- Emma Lawn "Squiggly Tree"
- Miles Shacklady "Mr Bubble Duck"
- Cameron Spurling "Hiding In The Grass"
- Lauren Walker "Flower Power"

12-18-year-olds

- 1st William Kaufhold "Winter Mist"
- Joint 2nd Katherine Waters "Lake"
- Harriet Connor "Snow Coated Trees"

Joint 3rd

- Sasha Davis "Deer and the Snow"
- Tom White "Blizzard in April - Tangled Branches"

Highly Commended

- Richard Blakey "Growth"
- Sasha Davis "Deer Fight"
- John Humby "Spring Harmony"



Detail from "Peep" by Gemma Driskell

Spiders have eight legs and are arachnids, another completely separate group.

Slugs and snails have no legs at all. They are gastropods and move along on a slimy foot.

Woodlice are isopods. They have 14 legs and, like crabs and lobsters, are members of the crustacean family.

Centipedes have only one pair of legs on each of their segments (unlike millipedes) and belong to a group of animals called chilopoda.

For further information read the Ant Hills leaflet available from the information centre outside Pembroke Lodge.

Each ant hill is the result of many lifetimes of labour by thousands of tiny Yellow Meadow Ants (*Lasius flavus*). A lack of disturbance is vital – the mounds cannot form in mown areas. They are also vulnerable to damage by erosion and compaction by trampling and off-road cycling.

Q1: There are billions of them living in ant hills in the acid grassland.

ANSWERS

Q2: Yes: 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10 are insects

No: 2, 4, 5 and 9 are not insects.

USEFUL NOTES

Join Friends monthly email

Since April, members for whom we have email addresses have been receiving a monthly email highlighting Friends activities, together with the Park and Isabella Diaries by Simon Richards and his staff. If you would like to subscribe, please email cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk.

Wanted – new Treasurer for the Friends

John Waller will be standing down as Honorary Treasurer at the end of 2008, and we want to find a replacement for him. The role is the normal one for a voluntary body: receiving donations, paying invoices, recording all transactions, managing the bank account, preparing year-end accounts and liaising with the external auditor; the number of transactions is relatively small. We have a team who handle all subscriptions including handling cheques and chasing non-payment, thus reducing the Treasurer's workload considerably.

The Treasurer is on the Committee, which gives him or her the opportunity to influence Friends' activities. We envisage that the role would initially be for a couple of years (no need to commit for a lifetime!), but extendable. An accounting qualification or background would be helpful but not essential; some familiarity with accounting is needed.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Crompton on 020 8876 1123 or ron.crompton@frp.org.uk.

The Friends AGM

Our AGM took place on 26 April. Copies of the Chairman's Annual Report and a summary of Simon Richards' excellent talk have been sent out as attachments to our monthly e-mail; if you would like a paper copy, please write a short note to Ron Crompton, 143 Palewell Park, London SW14 8JJ.

Queries about the Friends?

For more information about The Friends of Richmond Park see our website - www.frp.org.uk – or contact Brian Baker, Honorary Secretary, on 020 8546 3109.

Subscriptions & membership

Subscription rates: £6 individuals, £10 households and societies. All membership enquiries to Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623. Application forms can be downloaded from our website www.frp.org.uk

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

Email: richmond@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk

Web: www.royalparcs.gov.uk

Police telephone number:
020 7706 7272

Friends Committee

Chairman: Ron Crompton

Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith &
Sheila Hamilton

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

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

Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

Events**Tuesday 29 July, 7–9pm**

King's House School,
Richmond

Cheese & wine social event for FoRP volunteers**Sunday 14 Sept**

Richmond Park

Duathlon. Annual run-bike-run event. Park closed to traffic all day.

Sunday 21 Sept, 11am–4pm

Holly Lodge

Richmond Park Open Day. The Park Office will be open to visitors of all ages, with exhibits from wildlife officers, ecologists, horticulturalists and the police, and country crafts, pond-dipping and rides with the shire horses. Volunteers needed to help with the FoRP exhibit – please see insert with this newsletter.

Friends walks and courses**Walks**

All are welcome. Walks start at 10am from the car park and finish around midday, except for the Summer Evening Walk at 8.30pm. 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.

* Booking essential, phone 020 8876 2623. Donations to Bat Group welcome. See also www.frp.org.uk/walks

****Courses**

Friends members only, £2 fee. Booking essential, phone 020 8876 2623.

Date**What and where**

5 July, 10am

WALK: including Pembroke Lodge gardens option. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.

19 July, 10am

COURSE: Park Wildlife. Pembroke Lodge. To book, ring 020 8876 2623.

19 July, 8.30pm

WALK: Summer Evening*. Meet Sheen Gate car park.

2 August, 10am

WALK: including Butterflies. Meet Kingston Gate car park.

6 Sept, 10am

WALK: including Pen Pond Nature Trail. Meet Robin Hood car park.

4 Oct, 10am

WALK: including Deer. Meet Sheen Gate car park.

18 Oct, 10am

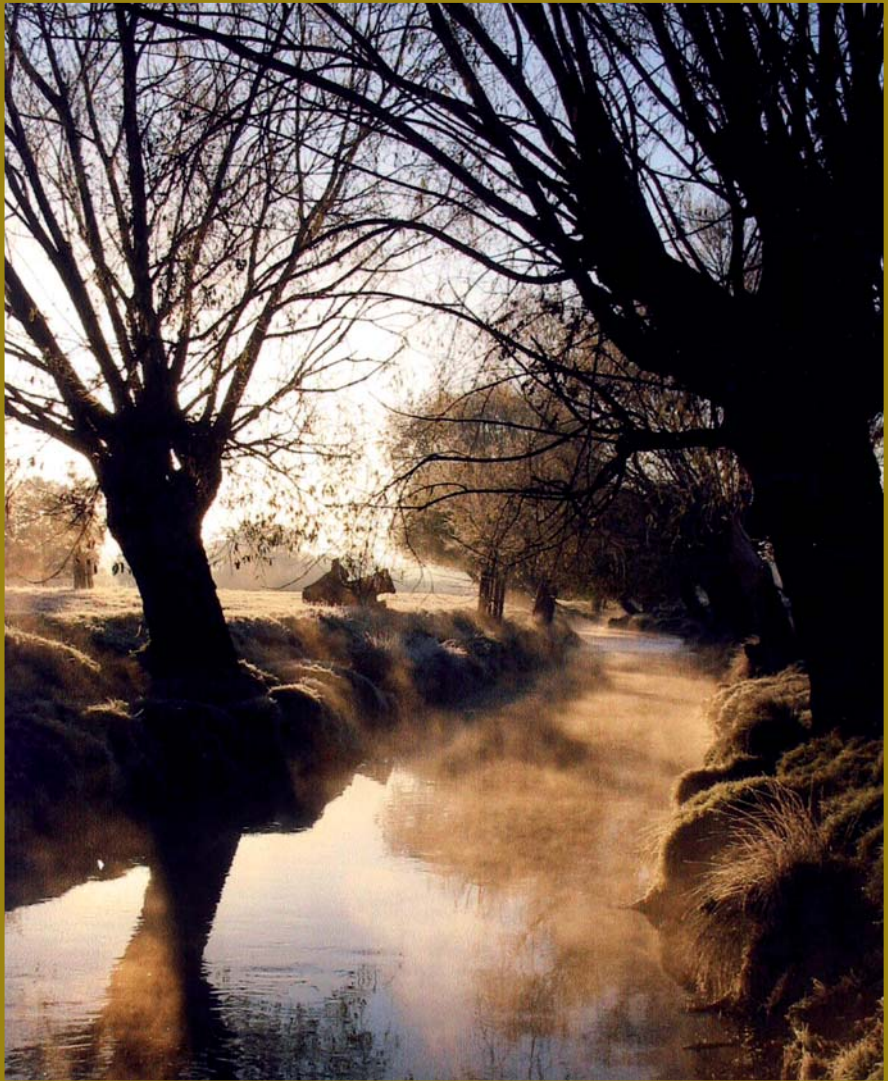
WALK: including Autumn Birds. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.

25 Oct, 10am

COURSE: Fungi. Pembroke Lodge **

1 Nov, 10am

WALK: including Fungi. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.



The Friends of Richmond Park
www.frp.org.uk

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