

The Friends of Richmond Park



Young people's photo competition winners

A new butterfly in the Park

Biodiversity: some fascinating facts and figures

Parking – the Friends' response

How far can we go?

In response to the editorial in the Spring issue, a member emailed to say that his newsletter had ended up in the British Library in Jeddah. The newsletter had been forwarded to him in Saudi Arabia, and after reading it he had donated it to the library from where it could be borrowed for use as an English-language teaching resource. It conjures up an intriguing picture: Saudis learning English by reading about snow, cattle, azaleas and birds in a quintessentially English deer park! Can any reader beat that?

I hope that these students, as well as Friends of Richmond Park closer to home, will enjoy this issue, which includes some fascinating facts and figures, a feature on butterflies, the impressive results of the young people's photo competition (some of which can be seen in this newsletter), and a round-up of members' views on parking in Park.

Marilyn Mason
 marilyn.mason@virgin.net

Answers to word search on page 12

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

Cover photos: Winners of the Young People's photo competition

Front: David Alexander *Tall Trees* (1st in the 7 – 11-year-old group)

Back: Kat Waters *A Hazy Shade of Winter* (1st in the 12 – 18-year-old group)

E-newsletter, anyone?

We have had some requests for this newsletter to be sent or made available electronically instead of in the present paper version. As well as suiting some members, it has potential benefits for Friends of Richmond Park in reducing our printing and postage costs and envelope stuffing, which requires a team of volunteers three times a year.

However, we only have e-mail addresses for 40% of our members, in spite of all our efforts (and we suspect that many members are not on e-mail), so we would continue to manage two methods of distribution. We plan to trial e-mail distribution for those who want it for the November newsletter, so please email cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk. if you would like to be sent the web-link which will appear in the relevant monthly e-bulletin.

This newsletter is printed on paper which is 50% recycled, 50% from certified sustainable forests.



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Please pass it on to a friend or recycle it when you have finished with it.

Biodiversity and us

At the Friends AGM in late April, Nigel Reeve, The Royal Parks Ecologist, gave an excellent talk highlighting Richmond Park's rich biodiversity – see page 10 for some of his fascinating facts and figures. No wonder that the Park is a National Nature Reserve. Only Windsor Great Park rivals it in South East England.

But the Park's biodiversity has been eroded and is threatened with further erosion. The last water vole was seen in the Park in the 1930s, the last water shrew in 1966 and the last brown hare in 1972. The skylark faced the same fate until recently when a protection zone was set up.

The culprit for this loss of biodiversity is the species that is not mentioned in the list given by Nigel – man. Our dogs made it impossible for the brown hare, which lives on the open ground, to survive. We and our children move the deadwood and destroy the beetles' habitat, and by building dens from the wood, "we hoist the invertebrates into the air, to dry out and die", in Nigel's words. We break off fungi for fun or because we mistakenly think they are destroying the tree; we stamp on anthills and crush the nests and young ants which are growing up in the domes, warmed by the sun; we use veteran trees as waste bins.

Nigel's talk was both uplifting and depressing at the same time. We have a long way to go to educate ourselves and others about the large impact we have on the Park's wildlife, and how we can reduce that impact.



Also at the AGM, we agreed to move to charitable status for the Friends. Some members expressed concerns about replacing the present 1961 objectives, specifically those about minimising the impact of traffic, with the more general objectives now proposed; in the end 90% approved the new objectives. While I understand the objectors' concerns, I should make it clear that the new general objectives are intended to widen what the Friends can do (and strengthen our public interest commitment, which is important in seeking charitable status), and they do not prevent us pursuing any of the goals set out in 1961, if the membership so wishes. We are now preparing the application to the Charity Commissioners.

Finally, the AGM discussed the Friends' submission on the proposed changes to Park regulations, particularly parking charges, summarised on page 6. We think it is a fair reflection of the views on both sides of the argument and, most important, tackles the big problem of congestion in the car parks at peak periods while trying to minimise the impact on regular users and people living in surrounding streets. I hope you agree.

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Looks interesting – but not good for wildlife
 Photo by Marilyn Mason



Prize-winning photo: David Alexander's "Peaceful Paradise"

Spring birds

March sightings included a Sand Martin, a male Pheasant, a Lesser Redpoll, a Red Kite, two Buzzards, and even a Canary migrating northwards. April rain brought four Common Scoters to Upper Pen Pond on Easter Monday, the first in the Park since 1948 despite their name; Little Egrets rested in the alders at the back of the pond. The Friends' spring walk in April saw the first Hobby and Yellow Wagtail of the year, a feeding flock of late Redpolls, the Park's only two singing Meadow Pipits and only pair of Stonechats; a singing Willow Warbler and the usual Little Owl. Summer migrants arrived during April and May, including: Warblers, Whitethroats, Swifts, Lesser Whitethroat, rare Cuckoos, a Tree Pipit, Whinchats, and Spotted Flycatchers. The Park's waterbirds bred with varying success.

With thanks to Jan Wilczur's Bird Notes

A happy accident!

One of the cows in the grazing experiment gave birth to a baby bull calf during May, apparently an unplanned pregnancy but one that went well, and within a week of his birth the calf could be seen following his mother. By the time you read this, the visiting cattle will have returned to Hounslow urban farm, where the new calf will meet plenty of school-children and become familiar with people.

Deer

Male deer have been casting their antlers, which are found surprisingly rarely in the Park considering the numbers there must be. Their new antlers are clothed in "velvet". Meanwhile, the females have been producing young: red deer "calves" and fallow deer "fawns", which remain hidden in deep grass or bracken (or, in the case of red deer, in Pond Plantation) until ready to follow their mothers.

The view from the Mound

Boris Johnson has announced proposals to restore the protected view of St Paul's from King Henry's Mound and other locations in London, which was narrowed by Ken Livingstone just before he left office. The Friends protested to Ken about the narrowing and have been pushing the Mayor to restore it, so are delighted. At the moment, the proposals are a draft and some way off being implemented, but it is a good start. One big problem is that the proposed Land Securities' Victoria development, a massive building which would obscure part of the view, may still get the green light. Boris directed Westminster City Council to refuse planning permission back in March, but said he would reverse that if the developers offered a financial contribution to Crossrail. It would be odd if this development went ahead just as the protection is being tightened, and the Friends have urged him and Westminster to refuse permission immediately.

Summer health warning

The flourishing Park bracken provides cover for ticks, which can attach themselves to deer, dogs or humans and pass on Lyme disease. If you find a tick on you and then develop cold-like symptoms it is precautionary to tell your doctor or contact NHS Direct. Dogs can be prevented from picking up ticks by using drops supplied in pet shops or vets. A leaflet is available from Holly Lodge.

Memorials in the Park

It's very tempting to ask for one's ashes to be scattered in a place one has loved, but earlier this year the Government published anti-pollution rules about scattering ashes, in order to protect beauty spots. And the Mountaineering Council of Scotland has requested that mountaineers don't choose the most popular mountain summits for the scattering of their ashes, as too much ash can enrich the soil and stimulate atypical plant growth.

Richmond Park Management doesn't have quite the same problems of concentration of ashes as they do on some Scottish mountain tops, but Park staff have noticed piles of ashes in the Isabella Plantation – unsightly rather than an ecological problem, they say; when asked, they suggest scattering ashes rather than leaving them in a pile.

Formal benches are restricted to Pembroke Lodge and the Isabella Plantation, where there is little space left. In the wider Park, Management now place only plain oak benches, without plaques, made in the Park sawmill from Park timber.

Fish in the Pond

Member Dawn Adrienne Taylor came across these Environment Agency staff surveying the fish in Pen Ponds, and sent us the photo on the right of a very healthy-looking Carp. Dawn reports that there were no small fish in their net but about 13 or 14 large Common Carp and one Mirror Carp, weighing about 20 lbs on average. Several were pregnant, and none showed evidence of ever being hooked.



Prince Charles' Spinney

Work to restore part of Prince Charles' Spinney has been completed. Trees that offered poor support for wildlife because of their species or form were removed and the area re-planted with shrub-forming species, mainly Hazel, and other species that bear seeds and berries, all good for wildlife. The green grow-tubes will be removed once the new trees are established.

Stag beetles

If you see a stag beetle in the Park or elsewhere www.greatstaghunt.org would like to hear from you; the website provides identification help as well as advice on how to encourage stag beetles in your garden. You can also get identification help and a reporting form from the Information Centre

Dogs on leads, please

Since 1 May the Park policy on keeping dogs on leads has been extended from Isabella Plantation (all year) and the area between Pen Ponds and White Lodge (in the Skylark nesting season) to include Pen Ponds, Adam's Pond and Bishop's Pond. This is to reduce disturbance to the water birds that live and try to breed on and around the Park ponds.

Parking in the Park

by Ron Crompton

In January, The Royal Parks (TRP) issued proposals for changes to Park regulations, including the introduction of parking charges. Rather than responding immediately to TRP's proposals, the Friends sent out a consultation questionnaire to all its 1,500 members asking for their views of the proposals. The following are extracts from the Friends submission to TRP on May 1, based on the replies we received.

"TRP's proposals, particularly those for parking charges, have created a great deal of debate among our members. 388 people – a quarter of our membership – took the time and trouble to complete our questionnaire, with the majority adding comments and ideas.

The "headline" figures are:

- 43% of respondents support charges, 57% are against.
- of those who support charges, 68% think the proposed level is about right.
- 51% think there should be a maximum stay, with two-thirds of those saying 6 hours is about right.

The arguments made by supporters of charges included: that it is right that Park users should contribute to its upkeep, particularly where specific facilities are provided for them; that money raised would allow some current spending on roads and car parks to be used for conservation and ecology; and that charges will reduce traffic congestion in the car parks, a big problem on some days.

The arguments made by opposers of parking charges included: that regular users could be hit hard by the charges, particularly dog walkers; that charging will cause congestion and parking in surrounding streets; that

congestion in the Park is only on a few days; and that contrary to TRP's assertion, the Park is not well-served by public transport.

It is clear that our members have a broad spread of views on the proposals; those in favour are expressing views that are seldom heard in the newspapers and petitions; those against them have well-considered reasons which are not always dependent on how the proposals will affect them personally.

Combining these views with our own analysis, we have reached a conclusion on the proposed car parking charges that we think answers the problems, minimises the impact on Park users and those around the Park, and is practical. In summary:

- FoRP does not object to the principle of car parking charges; charges are now common in places similar to Richmond Park and the ever increasing impact of cars on the Park needs to be tackled; in addition, if car parking charges mean additional money is available for conservation and ecology in the Park, it is a strong argument for supporting the charges

- But we think TRP's proposals are too wide-ranging, and will impact significantly on many people; if TRP still goes ahead with its proposals as published, it is critical that there is some arrangement for frequent users (e.g. a season ticket), action by councils on parking in the surrounding roads, and ring-fencing of revenue or some other commitment to future spending on car parks and conservation

- We support a scheme of parking charges limited to peak periods (summer week-ends and

bank holidays) and between 09.30 or 10.00 and 18.00 or 18.30; this tackles directly the problem of congestion and reduces the impact on park users and those around the Park.

Concerning the proposals on PHVs, advertising on black cabs and PHVs, and horse riders picking up after their animals, 80% of our members supported TRP's proposals (although the remaining 20% raised some important objections)."

In Bushy Park, TRP made similar proposals to introduce parking charges (although at a lower level) and a 20 mph speed limit. The Friends of Bushy Park did not consult its members, since there was an obvious majority against parking charges (Bushy has no congestion problem); they "generally welcomed" the 20 mph speed limit.

In Greenwich Park, which already has parking charges, TRP proposed to increase these by 10% and introduce a 20 mph speed limit. Both of these were supported by the Greenwich Friends. On the increase in

charges, they recognized that there had been no increase for 5 years, and charges were below those in surrounding areas. On the 20 mph speed limit, they have been pressing for a reduction from 30 mph for several years, so considered it "long overdue"; last year a cyclist was killed in Greenwich Park by a car coming in the opposite direction overtaking another car at well over 30 mph.

We do not know the timetable for a decision on the changes, but it is unlikely to be less than 3 months, and may be much longer. You can get a copy of the full 8 page response from the Friends website – www.frp.org.uk – or phone Ron Crompton on 020 8876 1123.



Highly Commended photo:
Jessica Darlington's "White"

Conservation and Ecology Group

by Peter Burrows-Smith

Following our email to members, we had a large number of expressions of interest in our new Group supporting the Friends' core interests in the important area of conservation and ecology. This has developed into a core of 6-7 people, some well qualified and others with past or current experience of working in this area. One member, Samantha Wright, has actually worked in a National Park in the Western Cape, South Africa, which also featured veteran oaks and fallow deer!

The Park is already well served by a number of wildlife groups and it is fundamental that we work with them and do not compete – it is important that we "add value". We have therefore spent time making sure everyone knows about all the ongoing local work in this area, including the local borough's biodiversity work. Some of our members may in time join the main group in the Park, the Richmond Park Wildlife Group.

As things start to develop, we see our role as twofold:

- Education: informing our members about conservation and ecology issues in the Park (via this Newsletter, the Information Centre, Walks and Talks etc)
- Special projects: our own conservation projects in the park (obviously with the full approval of Park management, and maybe a bit of funding support from Friends)

There have been many other suggestions so far, ranging from improved wildlife information to working parties (like the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) and projects developing the number of enclosures near the main woods.

We shall keep you advised of developments. New members are always welcome, and whilst relevant experience or qualifications are always very useful, a keen interest and enthusiasm are just as important (I'm only an accountant!)

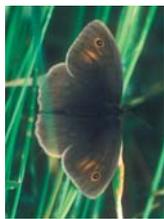
The Ringlet – a truly saturnine new arrival in the Park!

Text and photos by Piers Eley



Female Ringlet – top-side

At the end of June last year, Ken Cheesman, one of the Park's butterfly recorders, took me to see a group of Ringlets that he had found near the Ham gate. I was very excited by this discovery and immediately started to take photographs of this darkly beautiful butterfly – and this article is the result! The Ringlet, *Aphantopus hyperantus*, is one of the *Satyridae*, the brown butterflies of our grasslands, the commonest of which is the Meadow Brown, shown below; however, its habits are very different from those of the latter.



On the left, Male Meadow Brown showing small fulvous patches on upper wings.

On the right, Meadow Browns mating – the female is the more colourful one on the right.



Male Ringlet – top-side

Whereas the Meadow Brown can often be seen in abundance on a hot summer day flying in the open grassland, the Ringlet prefers the shade and dampness of well-protected and watered woodland edge. Unlike most of the other *Satyridae*, these butterflies seem to flourish in a rainy summer and are even happy to be out and about in the rain while other butterflies are clinging with closed wings to strong grass-stems.

The area along the Sudbrook appears to be ideal. The wall and woodlands next door provide protection from the wind, keeping it warm, while the shade from the Hornbeams and the damp from the stream keep the air humid. Interspersed between the Hornbeams are some sizeable bramble bushes, which are in full flower during late June and early July when the Ringlets are most active, providing a favourite source of nectar.

To the right are more images of Ringlets photographed in the Park, to help you in your searches should you wish to join our hunt for them.

The under-side, with its distinctive pattern of seven or eight golden rings, is instantly recognisable once the butterfly has settled, although the rings may vary somewhat in shape. The top-side is more difficult to distinguish from other butterflies, in particular the male Meadow Brown. The main distinguishing feature is the uniform deep velvety- brown darkness of the open wings.

Those of the female are less deeply shaded than those of the male, which may often appear to be almost completely black. When in good condition both butterflies however have a white fringe along the outer edges of the wings. Most importantly, neither sex has any fulvous (orange-brown) patch on either side of the wings.

On the other hand, the male Meadow Brown, which may also appear very dark, will (as in the photograph at the bottom of page 8) have a fulvous patch near the tip of the upper wing, the underside of which is also distinctly fulvous. The female Meadow Brown is quite highly-coloured and should not be open to confusion.

You may also note that the Ringlet's spots or rings may almost disappear in the blackness of the top wings of the male. Those of the female are somewhat more distinct.

If you find any in the Park, please record the date, numbers and location of these and let us have a note of this on one of the "occasional recording forms" available at Holly Lodge or at the Pembroke Lodge Information Centre. Good Hunting!



Male Ringlet – underside



Female Ringlet – underside

Piers Eley is Chairman of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group and of the Butterfly Recording Group.

You might also like to join the *Independent's* "Great British Butterfly Hunt". See <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/uk-butterflies/>, where you will find help in identifying butterflies and some information about their conservation status.

Fascinating facts and figures from the largest urban park in Europe

by Alison Donaldson

Royal Parks Ecologist Nigel Reeve reeled off some amazing statistics when he gave his fascinating, richly illustrated talk at the Friends' Annual General Meeting in April. It brought home to us all what an extraordinary part Richmond Park plays in current efforts to preserve biodiversity.



There are about 160 species of **bee and wasp** in the Park.

There are more than 546 species of **butterfly and moth** in the Park, at least 21 of which are scarce.



While the decline of bees is worrying, remember that butterflies and beetles pollinate plants too.

Nigel Reeve



Each anthill in the Park has been created by thousands of **Yellow Meadow Ants**, the only species building anthills in the Park. Anthills may be several decades old, and provide important food for woodpeckers – for example, 80% of the winter diet of Green Woodpeckers.

The message for all of us: pedestrians shouldn't walk on the anthills, and cyclists should stick to roads or official cycle or shared paths.

There are 11 species of **Bat** in the Park out of about 16 in the whole country.



There are more than 1350 species of **beetle** in the Park (surveyed in 2006), representing about half of those found nationally. The same survey recorded 347 species of saproxylic beetles (those associated with dead or decaying wood) and 40% of these have conservation status.



The Park has over 100,000 **trees**, of which more than 1300 are veteran trees from 14 species – including, for example, crab apple and hawthorn as well as oak and sweet chestnut.

289 species of **fungi** were found in one year (2008), and roughly 400 species in total have been recorded in the Park). Exotic names include "Chicken of the Woods", "Yellow Brain", "Candle Snuff" and "Beefsteak Fungus".



In 2008 119 species of **bird** were seen in the Park, 57 of which are believed to have bred in the Park. Whatever we think about the parakeets who have made their home in the Park, there is no clear evidence yet that they are pushing out other bird species.



Biodiversity is not accounted for in our economy, yet it is worth money – we depend on biodiversity for food, medicine, air, water, waste processing, health and wellbeing.

The message for all of us: don't take out or put anything into the Park, and do clear up dog poo, which enriches the soil and encourages coarse grasses, thistles and nettles at the expense of rarer acid grassland species.

A "mind-altering experience"

by Max Lankester

I've heard many people say that on entering the Park their mood changes: it's truly a mind-altering experience – and it's free!

The closest Gate for me is Cambrian Gate, and the difference between the man-made world outside the Gate and the natural environment inside is always striking. I can immediately see whether the heron which seems to live at Bishop's Pond is at home, and then try to spot green woodpeckers as they feed on the ant hills between the Pond and Conduit Wood.



Spot the heron!
Photo by Max Lankester.

And yet the Park itself was, of course, wholly the creation of King Charles I, and the ecology within it has been shaped by how the Park had been used (and at times abused) since then. I am often struck by the paradox that we would not have the wonderful resource which we enjoy today had it not been for the selfish and autocratic actions of Charles in the 1630s: without the building of the wall, the settlements of Richmond, Sheen, Roehampton and Kingston would, over time, have coalesced into another stretch of South West London suburbia. I imagine that his contemporaries would struggle to understand that, centuries later, Charles' act is as much applauded as scorned.

I can't resist trying to visualise the Park as it was at various times in the past. That may be something as apparently banal as the route of the roads – such as the fact that from Ham Cross there was originally no road to where Kingston Gate now is: the track went to Ladderstile Gate instead. Or that from Sheen Cross the road to Richmond Gate until at least the mid-18th century ran to the north of Holly Lodge rather than on the more southerly alignment we see today.

Then there were the wartime structures such as the South African military hospital near Cambrian Gate during WWI and the large barracks close to Kingston Gate, which were not finally demolished until the 1960s. Although one may have expected to see some reminder of such episodes in the Park's history, it is encouraging that Nature is able so soon to erase all traces.

How the Park will cope with the changes being wrought now by the intensity of public use is uncertain. I am hopeful, though, that the effects of its popularity won't be allowed to destroy those features which embody the Park's true value.



Max leading a walk in the Park
Photo by Michael Davison

YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Karen Rockell

Word Search

Find the names of the Richmond Park ponds below. You can find them all on the map of Richmond Park. (Adults — try to do it without the map!) We've only used the first name e.g "Simons". Words can be found along horizontal, vertical or diagonal lines. Answers on page 2.

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

Things to look for while you are in the park this summer:

Butterflies around flowers

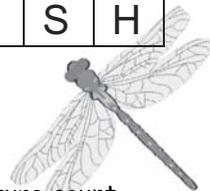
Damselflies and dragonflies around the ponds (but be careful near water)



Wander the Web

RSPB make your nature count— What visits your garden? Fill in the survey at <http://www.rspb.org.uk/naturecount/>

If you liked the butterflies on page 8, try the games on this website: http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/text/60/play_and_learn.html



Winners of the young people's photo competition

sponsored by **RUSSELL-COOKE SOLICITORS**

Once again we had an excellent response to our photography competition for young people, sponsored by Russell-Cooke Solicitors. Our judges, Ron Teague and Joyce Bing, Royal Parks official photographers, were extremely impressed with the overall standard of entries and awarded prizes in every category, plus several Highly Commended certificates.

The competition was open to anyone under 18 in three age categories: Under 7s; 7 –11-year-olds; and 12 – 18-year-olds.

The prize-winners and Highly Commended in each category are as follows:

Under 7s

- 1st Kieran Bye "Purple Drops" (above, right)
- 2nd Kieran Bye "Bird Bath"
- 3rd Molly Harris "Green Leaves"



7 –11-year-olds

- 1st David Alexander "Tall Trees" (front cover)
- 2nd Olivia Caravello "Morning at Isabella Plantation"
- 3rd David Alexander "Peaceful Paradise" (see page 4)
- Highly Commended
 - Libby Darlington "Isabella Peacock"
 - Hugo Thomas "One Giant Leap"
 - Mia Thomas "Waterlogged"

12 – 18-year-olds

- 1st Kat Waters "A Hazy Shade of Winter" (back cover)
- 2nd Georgie Hewitt "Breakthrough"
- 3rd Kat Waters "Brass Winter"
- Highly Commended
 - Jessica Darlington "Robin"
 - Jessica Darlington "White" (see page 6)
 - Louise Kaufhold "Sunday Morning Gossip!"



Young prize-winners with their photographs after the prize-giving on 13 June. Behind them, from left to right: competition judge Ron Teague, Susan Kramer MP, Dawn Alderson from sponsors Russell Cooke Solicitors and competition judge Joyce Bing.

Information Centre News

The Royal Parks has recently reprinted the 1947 map of Richmond Park in a 33 by 23 inch size. It is a fascinating picture of the Park then, complete with army huts and football pitches. It originally cost 2s/6d (mounted 4s/6d) and was "on sale from Gate Keepers". It can be bought at the Information Centre for the bargain price of £5 (unmounted).

Also available at the Information Centre, identification help and a reporting form for stag beetles, and a beautifully illustrated and informative leaflet on butterflies for just 50p.

More Information Centre volunteers would still be welcome, as they would enable more opening days and/or longer hours. A day's training with certificate, a T-shirt and a name badge are provided. Volunteers work with like-minded colleagues in congenial surroundings, and have the satisfaction of passing on their knowledge and love of the Park. If you'd like to join them, please contact Brian Baker on 020 8546 3109 or briangbaker@greenbee.net.

Richmond Park History Project

The History Project team now has 23 volunteers, and work is starting on making links with other interested organisations, filing the collection (of something like 5000 + items), sorting through and listing collections of postcards, books (and their contents) and objects, and cleaning some items and identifying others that need to be cleaned professionally. Coming up in 2011 is the 50th birthday of the Friends, so the History Project group will be collecting, collating and cataloguing Friends archives and hope to produce a timeline of significant Friends dates.

New police non-emergency telephone number: 0300 123 1212

Queries about the Friends?

For more information about The Friends of Richmond Park see our website, www.frp.org.uk, or contact or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or max.lankester@frp.org.uk

Friends monthly email

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly email highlighting Friends activities, together with the Park and Isabella Diaries by Simon Richards and his staff, and Bird Notes, please email cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk.

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 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 Manager, Simon Richards at:

The Royal Parks, Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 5HS
Tel: 020 8948 3209
Fax: 020 8332 2730
Email: richmond@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.royalparcs.gov.uk

Friends Committee

Chairman: Ron Crompton

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

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

Other committee members: Brian Baker, John Collier, Alison Donaldson, John Karter, Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), Jack Maunders (Hon. Treasurer), Karen Rockell.
Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

Friends walks and courses**Walks**

All welcome. Most walks start at 10.00am from a car park. – except for the Summer Evening Walk which meets 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.

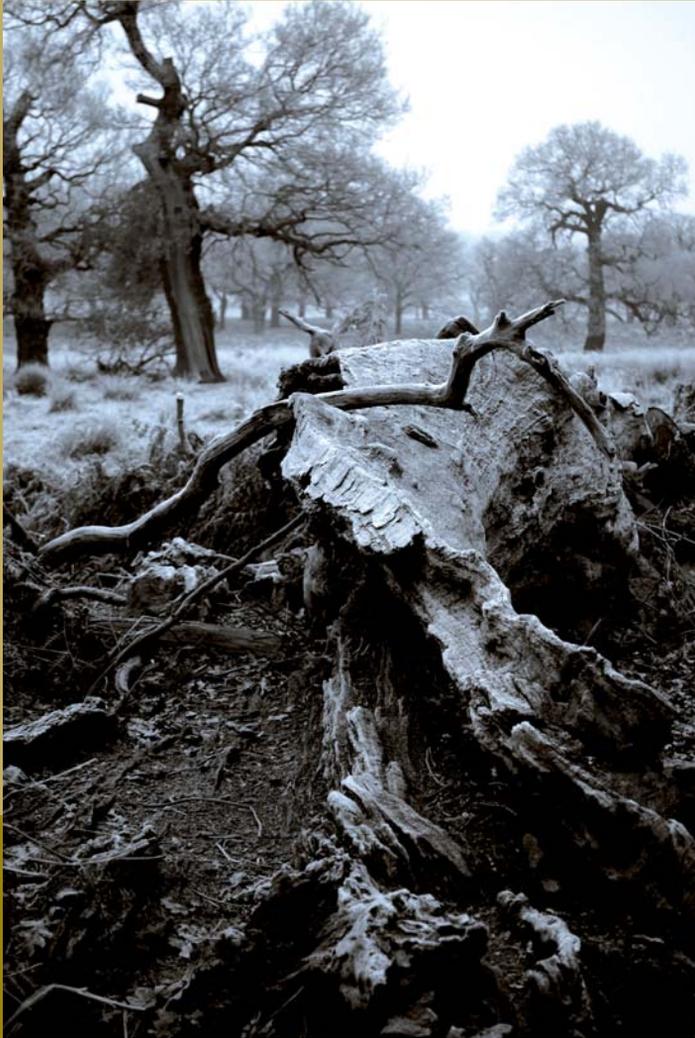
* **Wildlife Courses** are typically a 30-minute talk indoors followed by a 2-hour walk. Courses are for Friends members only and places must be booked – please call Sue on 0208 549 8975. Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

See also

www.frp.org.uk/walks

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

Date	What and where
4 July, 10.00am	WALK: including Gardens . Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.
11 July, 10.00am	COURSE: Ray Garrett on Butterflies* . Pembroke Lodge.
18 July, 8.30pm	WALK: Summer Evening . Meet Sheen Gate car park.
1 August, 10am	WALK: including Butterflies . Meet Kingston Gate car park.
5 Sept, 10.00am	WALK: including Pen Pond Nature Trail . Meet Robin Hood Gate car park
26 Sept, 10am	COURSE : Deer . Pembroke Lodge.
3 Oct, 10am	WALK: including Deer . Meet Sheen Gate car park
17 Oct, 10am	WALK: including Autumn Birds . Meet Pembroke Lodge car park
7 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