



FRIENDS of
RICHMOND PARK

*Protecting Richmond Park's peace and
natural beauty for future generations*

NEWSLETTER Autumn/Winter 2010



The deer in autumn

Park history, ancient and modern

Richmond Park quiz

Friends anniversary coming up

Looking back, looking forward...

We have some fascinating historical snippets, including a recipe from Mrs Beeton, in this issue, as well as a look back at more recent events such as Open Day 2010. And we begin to look forward to next year's celebration of a half-century of the Friends, previewing our anniversary logo and some of the celebratory events coming up in 2011.

We also have the usual seasonal articles and news about the Park's wildlife, which also features heavily in the quiz on page 13.

Congratulations to Friends who won Royal Parks volunteer awards for Richmond Park this year. One well-deserved award went to regular contributor Michael Davison, who once again provides several news items, photographs and a feature for this issue.

Lastly, apologies for putting the wrong caption on a photo on page 10 of the summer issue: the photo was in fact of Michael Bolton, and was intended to accompany his memoir in the left hand column.

Marilyn Mason
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Quiz (on page 13) answers

- 1.(c) 2500 2.(c) 11 3.(b) 8 4.(b) 1637
- 5.(a) Fallow & (b) Red 6.(c) 630 7.(c) 5
- stag 8.(c) autumn 9.(c) 116 10.(c) 55
- 11.(b) Kestrel & (c) Skylark 12.(d) 200+
- 13.(b) Stag Beetle 14.(d) 1350
- 15.(d) 750 16.(d) 12000 17.(c) Oak
- 18.(c) Willow



A deer has a narrow escape
 Photo by Sam Rowley
<http://samrowley.zenfolio.com>

Cover photos

Front: Kerry Davies' photo of a Red Deer stag defending his harem of hinds — more great photos at <http://www.wabisabipix.com>.

Back: Sasha Davis' *Ray of Sunshine*, one of the winners of the 2010 photography competition in the 12-15-year-old group.

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

Deer and humans

Collisions with deer kill 15 to 20 UK motorists a year and injure 1,800, according to a recent article in the *Evening Standard*. The article gave advice on how to avoid a collision (for example, "Keep back from the car in front; fatalities often result from deer thrown up by other traffic..."), but did not say how deer should avoid collisions, or how many deer are killed or injured. Indeed, it said very little about the deer. There are now 700,000 wild deer in the UK and the population is growing very rapidly — the article says that "without intervention" it grows at 30% a year — so the conflict with humans can only get worse. October and November are the riskiest months because of the rutting season when deer move around more and nights are closing in.

The Park's deer population is controlled in a yearly cull (see page 8), and is stable at 630. But we humans still manage to kill a fair number through collisions with cars, out-of-control dogs, and litter. Some 5-10 Park deer a year

are killed by cars; this has halved since 2004 when the speed limit was reduced from 30 to 20 mph, but some drivers still speed and they seem to be responsible for most deaths (drivers

don't usually stop so only examination of the deer shows it has been hit by a car).

Uncontrolled dogs kill 6 or so deer a year, mainly baby deer in their first weeks, left in the undergrowth while their mothers graze nearby. A dog comes across a baby deer, the deer tries to flee, the dog automatically chases it, the deer cannot run fast enough to escape, and the dog brings it down. Occasionally a dog will chase a herd and maul a fully-grown deer, which then has to be destroyed.

Litter kills around 5 deer a year. This is a guess, based on the post-mortems done when deer die unexpectedly. The photograph below left shows John Bartram, one of the Park's wildlife officers responsible for the welfare of the herd, holding up the stomach contents of two deer that died from litter. They include rope and string, black dog-waste bags, other plastics, and parts of clothing — all material that deer cannot digest. These deer died slow, agonising deaths from starvation. Deer, much like goats, will eat anything, which helps them survive in the wild but can be disastrous when humans are around.

So we Park-users kill around 20 deer a year in painful deaths, not the painless sudden shot to the head of the cull. Simple arithmetic says that a Park deer has a 1 in 30 chance of being killed by humans — and no humans die in return. Doesn't seem fair, does it?

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Green Flag Award

This summer Richmond Park was awarded a green Flag for the fourth year running. This national award is given in recognition of achieving the national standard for parks and open spaces in England and Wales.

The Park's the star



A gypsy encampment, a marquee, some roadside car park matting — all recent signs of film crews in the Park, a more frequent occurrence than many visitors realise. The Park is a popular location for advertisements, fashion photo shoots, documentaries and the occasional feature film. BBC's "Autumn- watch 2010" (presenter Kate Humble with Park wildlife officer John Bartram in the photo above) was filming in the Park in October and into November, while another crew was filming the next Sherlock Holmes feature film. All this activity, while it leads to sudden peaks in visitors and can be disruptive, is closely monitored by Park staff and provides income as well as some environmental benefits after filming; for example, coming soon, courtesy of film-makers, a new heather plantation.

Isabella Plantation Access Project

The Royal Parks Stage 1 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for the Isabella Plantation was submitted on August 31st, after consultation over the spring and summer months. The views of the public and stakeholder groups such as the Friends had a big influence on the final submission. These views included: the need to retain the Plantation's natural feel; requests not to introduce catering into the Plantation; support for

improvements to toilets and new disabled access toilets; support for introduction of reed beds and associated boardwalks; support for improvements to path networks, gates, bridges and the disabled users' car park; and support for using green technology for irrigation and power supplies.

The Royal Parks now await the HLF decision, probably at the end of December. If the bid is successful they will be invited to submit a Stage 2 bid early in 2012. The Royal Parks will keep Friends updated on progress, and thank everyone who commented, came along to a consultation session, or served on the Project Steering Group.

Acute Oak Decline

As reported in the last newsletter, this new disease is taking hold in Richmond Park. You may notice square areas on some trees where bark has been removed for analysis.

2010 volunteer awards

This year's volunteer awards for Richmond Park went to the following: Ron Teague and Joyce Bing for the work they have done over many years of photographing the Park; Ray Garrett for his work, particularly with the Butterfly Group; Michael Davison for all the work he has done for the Friends, including his contributions to the newsletter (Michael receiving his award from Park Manager Simon Richards on the right); and Rachel Hirschler for her work organising volunteers for the Visitor Centre and the History Project. The prize was to go out with the wildlife officers feeding the deer at night.



Tern raft

There is good news and bad on the new Upper Pen Pond Tern raft, which was partly funded by the sale of merchandise in the Visitor Centre. It had an initial success when a pair of Terns nested and a single chick hatched. Sadly the chick did not survive, but now that the Terns have discovered this nesting site they may return next year.

Conservation Group

Saturday morning work and training started again in September, initially on rhododendron clearance and related matters in the Pen Ponds Plantation. Training will cover first aid, risk assessment, bonfires and leadership.

A first for the Visitor Centre?

This summer, a gentleman came into the Visitor Centre asking for directions to King Henry's Mound in Pembroke Lodge gardens and the view to St Paul's Cathedral, where he was going to propose marriage to his girlfriend while she was looking towards St Paul's.

Management of the Royal Parks

The government proposes to transfer management of the Royal Parks to the Mayor's office, though there has been no consultation as yet with Parks stakeholders and few details are settled. So a Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum has been formed; it first met in September and will develop proposals to protect and enhance the Parks to be included in any future management arrangements.

Friends Christmas cards

On sale on Open Day and now at the Visitor Centre,

lovely Christmas cards featuring photos of the Park in winter taken by Michael Davison (as seen on the right). This year's is a small trial run so hurry down to the the Visitor Centre before they all sell out!



Myth-busting Friends

The long-standing myth that the Richmond Gate and its associated Lodge were designed by the renowned landscape designer "Capability" Brown was recently laid to rest by the Friends, who applied to English Heritage for the listing description to be corrected. After a lengthy evaluation of the evidence, an order putting the historical record straight was signed in September on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. The English Heritage report summary says: "Richmond Gate and Lodges, designed by Sir John Soane in his role as King's Deputy Surveyor of Woods and Forests, should remain designated at Grade II. The address and list description, which date to 1950, should be amended to correct and expand the description and take account of new research which attributes the design of the Gate and Lodge to Sir John Soane rather than Lancelot "Capability" Brown."

With thanks to Alice Bigelow, Peter Burrows-Smith, Ron Crompton, Michael Davison, Max Lankester, Mark Lunt, and Richmond Park Management for news items.

Open Day 2010



On September 19 Holly Lodge threw open its gates to the public for Richmond Park's biennial Open Day. 2,417 visitors – 700 more than at the last Open Day – were treated to more than 40 displays, demonstrations and activities that offered facts and fun related to familiar and not-so-familiar aspects of the Park, with wildlife experts on hand to talk about the most important residents of our National Nature Reserve – the deer, birds, bats, beetles... and a programme of guided walks to the surrounding Park.

Visitors could watch one of the huge shire horses being shod, or they could peer at the tiny creatures netted by pond-dipping youngsters. Crafts such as wood turning, hurdle making and charcoal burning based on Park timber drew interested spectators – while indoors the re-created Victorian pharmacy was a major attraction. Looking into the future, the design for

new gates into Sidmouth Woods to commemorate the tercentenary of the completion of St Paul's and the vista from King Henry's Mound was unveiled.

The Friends were well in evidence stewarding and at their stall in the main courtyard. Eager volunteers spread the word about our activities convincingly enough to persuade an encouraging number of newcomers to sign up. Open Day co-ordinator P J Greeves praised their spirit of camaraderie: "I salute you as a great bunch of people". Park Manager Simon Richards also had nothing but praise for the volunteers: "The day could not have taken place without their support."

Open Day survey

25 of the survey forms on the back page of the Open Day programme were returned, almost all from families and couples, and although this is a small sample of Park visitors, their responses were interesting and seem to us fairly typical. All except one were local visitors, and most of these were regulars; almost exactly 50% come only on foot or by bicycle, and one comes on horseback. The Isabella Plantation and/or Pembroke Lodge were mentioned as reasons for visiting by seven respondents. Other attractions included: the size and space of the Park and its sense of countryside; its peace and tranquillity; and its wildlife and trees. Respondents' dislikes included: "nothing"; complaints about dogs; too many or speeding cars; aggressive, inconsiderate or off-track cyclists; one also mentioned litter and uncontrolled children.

With thanks to Ron Crompton, Michael Davison, Ray Garratt and Max Lankester

FRP — 50 not out

Richard Gray

On the 27th March 1961 an obscure young English beat band started a three-month residency at the notorious Reeperbahn Club in Hamburg. On the same day as The Beatles were tuning up, Ian Fleming published his ninth James Bond novel *Thunderball* and... the Friends of Richmond Park held their first meeting at the Station Hotel, Richmond.

Whilst The Beatles, Ian Fleming and the Station Hotel are all long gone, the FRP is looking forward to celebrating its first 50 years on 27th March 2011, and plans are afoot to make the whole year rather special by marking the anniversary with a number of events.

Central to many of our celebrations will be the involvement of the last surviving member of the original committee formed at that inaugural meeting. A little over 50 years ago Wendy Macaulay, together with a handful of other Richmond locals, wished to oppose the raising of the speed limit to 30 mph in the Park, and as well as being a founding member of the FRP she was elected Joint Hon Secretary. The anniversary edition of this newsletter, next spring, will publish a full interview with Wendy by Michael Davison.

Scheduled events, currently in the planning stage, include a members' summer tea party; a tour of the White Lodge

Royal Ballet School (including viewing exercises and classes); and a media and VIP launch in March. Details, dates and ticket arrangements for these events will be advised as plans are finalised.

FRP member Mary Pollard has also been very busy digging into the archives and history of the FRP (see page 12), and as part of the anniversary celebrations we hope to have presentations and displays highlighting key events over the last 50 years. Mary is also currently working on a written history of the FRP which is scheduled to be ready in time for launch event. And another much-vaunted publication, the FRP's *Guide to Richmond Park* is, after two years in preparation, due to make its first appearance in March.

After recently redesigning the FRP logo, we've also added a 50th anniversary laurel to mark 2011 as a special year and this will be used on various media, marketing materials and displays throughout the year. Look out for this sign and for much more information to be announced soon.



The deer in autumn

Autumn brings the rutting season, with stags and bucks sporting fully-grown antlers and thrashing them about in the vegetation to decorate them with bracken and build up their neck muscles. They coat themselves in mud and roar and bellow as they try to establish their territories and their harems, which must be prevented from wandering, defended from rivals and tested for readiness to mate. Stags become very territorial and Park staff advise visitors to treat them with due respect and to keep well away from them to allow them to behave normally.

The rut is an exhausting time for stags and bucks, and they regain condition and build up winter fat reserves by feasting on chestnuts and beech mast — so please leave these in the Park for the deer.

This year's rut also brought BBC's "Autumnwatch" team to the Park (see page 4) — and every autumn brings the deer cull, and with it some public concern. Last year Park Manager Simon Richards issued a statement about managing the Park's deer population, and, with his permission, we reprint lengthy extracts below in the hope that they will reassure Friends concerned about animal welfare and/or exploitation of the Park's deer herd.

"...These parkland deer are wild animals, which are not regularly shepherded or handled; they are left to breed normally [see above] and to establish normal social behaviour.

All deer parks have a maximum capacity of deer numbers, which must not be exceeded to avoid problems of disease



Photo by Kerry Davies, <http://www.wabisabipix.com>.

and damage to the natural environment (the complex ecosystems for which Richmond Park is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserve and a European Special Area of Conservation, being of particular importance). The British Deer Society and the Deer Initiative of England and Wales, who are regarded as the main welfare organisations dealing with the welfare and management of deer nationally, recognise that parkland deer numbers must be managed and that removal of some of the deer is necessary each year to keep populations at acceptable levels.

The British Deer Society and the Deer Initiative fully endorse the humane shooting of deer as the optimum method of deer control in the Royal Parks. There are currently no realistic prospects of limiting the fertility of the deer by contraception in the Royal Parks and, in contrast to deer farms, there are no facilities to catch and re-locate the deer. As all deer parks already have deer that breed prolifically and wild deer are

increasing in numbers across England, the re-location of deer in large numbers from deer parks is not a realistic or sustainable option because the problem would just be transferred elsewhere.

It is worth stating that the standard and humaneness of the culling in the Royal Parks is scrutinized and approved each year by the nominated veterinary surgeon caring for the

health and welfare of the deer. There is no sensible or realistic alternative to the current management practice of humanely culling the deer. The personnel involved in the culling of the deer are very experienced and highly skilled marksmen. There is no evidence that the deer herds suffer any disruption or stress because of the cull and the individuals that are selected for removal are instantly and humanely killed without experiencing any fear or distress. Without such planned and monitored control of the deer population, the herds would increase by some 30% annually and both the deer and the parks would suffer from overcrowding very quickly.

When deer populations build up to unnatural levels, the risks of disease and malnutrition become very great. There are no natural predators of deer in the UK, certainly none in the parks, and it would clearly be unacceptable to allow over population and starvation to become the controlling factors of the deer herds.

Rounding up, handling and transporting the deer (particularly Fallow deer) to

alternative locations can result in great stress and a high risk of injury, as the deer are effectively wild and have never been selected or conditioned to being handled like cattle...

Contraceptive treatment of female deer is still in the experimental stages in Europe and the USA and effective contraception currently requires close contact with the deer, which is not possible in the Royal Parks. In consultation with our veterinary advisor, we are carefully monitoring the worldwide development of technology to limit deer populations in circumstances such as ours and we will continue to keep our policies for the management of our deer under review.

The Royal Parks advertise the venison that results from the cull for sale by public tender and the venison is collected by a wholesaler who processes the venison for onward distribution to retail markets. We have no control over where the venison is then sold although we understand that much is exported. There is no direct link between the income from the sale of venison and the cost of carrying out the deer cull. The Royal Parks allocate resources that cover the cost of the two Wildlife Officers as well as the costs of winter feeding of the deer herds and veterinary advice."



Deer and Jackdaw
Photo by Alan Vincent

A seat that tells a story

Outside the north gate of Pembroke Lodge Gardens is an ironwork bench seat, serpentine in shape and commanding a view downhill towards the Thames. Incised into its slats are some lines of verse by James Thomson, the 18th-century Richmond poet who is commemorated by a rustic panel just inside the gate at Poet's Corner. They begin "Slow let us trace the matchless vale of Thames..." Low down at the left end of the seat appears the name "Ramon". Behind the presence of the seat and the identity of Ramon lies a moving story of ambition fulfilled, close friendship, a tragically early death, and a lasting tribute.



In September 1969 a meeting took place at Ham Polo Club that was to change the lives of four people. Two club members, Joe Mastroianni and Ramon Osner, recognised each other as kindred spirits in their love of horses and passion for riding. They became close friends and were to ride together regularly in the Park for 20 years. "We became such inseparable buddies," Joe recalls, "that colleagues called us The Magpies."

In October 1979 Joe and Ramon together purchased the Kingston Riding Centre, just outside Kingston Gate on

Michael Davison

Crescent Road, so realising a dream Joe had cherished since childhood. By this time the manager of Ham Polo Club, Lynne Tilley, had become Joe's wife, and in 1981 Ramon found a partner in Shirley Hillman. Helped by Shirley's business skills and Lynne's understanding of horses, the Riding Centre flourished. "This was a match and a team made of four loving people dedicated to each other," says Joe.

Sadly, on May 5 1990 Ramon Osner collapsed and died while playing squash, at the age of only 60. Shirley wanted to celebrate Ramon's passion for the Park with some kind of memorial and approached Mike Fitt, then Superintendent of the Park. Mike takes up the story: "I was working at the time on some redesign within Pembroke Lodge Gardens. I wanted to create another viewpoint across the valley to complement the one from King Henry's Mound, and chose a site beside the northern entrance for a seat overlooking the Thames." So, in collaboration with Land Use Consultants, the Ramon Osner memorial seat was born. Richard Farrington, a farrier working at Farnham in Surrey, was chosen to work with Mike Fitt and Shirley to create a seat with a flowing design that would integrate the viewpoint into the landscape. It was installed in 1994.

For the inscription, lines from James Thomson's poem "The Seasons" were chosen as appropriate to the site. As inspiration for the final line, however, Shirley turned to the nearby panel bearing a verse tribute to Thomson by John Heneage Jesse. This reads in part: "For here his gentle spirit lingers still."



and Lynne Mastroianni, who also care for clients' horses stabled at Holly Lodge. Shirley Hillman remains a vital member of the team, together with manager Nicky Cirillo. Says Joe, now 72, "Richmond Park and the Riding Centre were our playground, where the lives of all us have been enriched far beyond our expectations."

More Park memories

Audrey Curtis, who has been going to the Park for over 80 years, recalls that when her father got his first car, an Austin 7, they drove to the Park and he was able to park anywhere he liked. There seemed to be very few people about.

Member Graham Clifton was boarding a flight from St Louis, USA, in 1996, wearing a smart blue FRP tie with an image of stags all the way down. The lady flight attendant, at the top of the stairs, said, "Good afternoon, sir. Gee, sir, did you shoot all of those deer?" For some Park-lovers this recipe, from

Look closely and you will see that the last line on the seat reads: "For Ramon, whose gentle spirit lingers still."

The Kingston Riding Centre in which Ramon was a partner still flourishes in the care of Joe

Parakeet pie, anyone?

Mrs. Beeton's *All About Cookery* (Ward, Lock & Co., Limited, date unknown), is probably the best thing to do with 12 parakeets.

Ingredients

12 Parakeets *
6 Thin slices of lean beef,
4 Rashers of bacon,
3 Hard-boiled eggs
1/2 tsp Finely chopped parsley
1/2 tsp Dried parsley
Finely grated lemon peel
Salt & pepper
Puff paste
Flour

Preparation Method

Prepare the birds, and truss them like a quail or any other small bird. Line a pie-dish with the beef, over it place 6 of the parakeets, intersperse slices of egg, parsley and lemon-rind, dredge lightly with flour, and season with salt and pepper. Cover with the bacon cut into strips, lay the rest of the birds on the top, intersperse slices of egg, season with salt and pepper, and sprinkle with parsley and lemon-rind as before; three-quarter fill the dish with cold water, cover with puff-paste, and bake in a quick oven.

Time: About 2 1/2 hours. Sufficient for about 12 persons.

* Parakeets are a small, long-tailed tropical parrot.

Wild food — a seasonal reminder

Collecting mushrooms is forbidden in the Park, as removing them would affect the ecosystem of this National Nature Reserve.

Richmond Park History Project

Mary Pollard

In July 2009 the Friends of Richmond Park launched the Richmond Park History Project. Our dedicated volunteers were called upon to help with an enormous task: sorting and archiving all the historical documents from the vast Hearsam Collection for a web-based archive, accessible to the public.



The content ranges from postcards to newspaper cuttings, books, maps and photographs — a whole variety of things, all of great interest to the Friends — and we aim to extract material from these sources for publication and display as the project progresses.

By the end of the year, the first task, of sorting the materials, had been completed. Thanks to the determined efforts of Stephen Scott, who first researched the requirements for heritage-quality archiving, we now have a professional museum database and a high quality scanner to capture and catalogue the collection. Almost 200 postcards have already been processed, with a view to publishing all 300 in the collection on the internet early next year.

The images not only give fascinating images of times gone by, but they also provide snapshots of social history:

occasional inscriptions on the back tell us of the enjoyment of the visitors whose steps we now walk in.

The card on the left shows Kingston Gate in 1907 with a number of differences from today: no cars queuing to get in; everyone wearing hats; the baby upright in a perambulator; and the dogs off-lead.

Our second postcard, below, gives an indication of how much attitudes to the Park have changed. It is unthinkable today that someone would approach the deer to hand-feed them — for their own safety if not that of the animals!

Many of the postcards simply picture the beauty and splendour of the Park and its wildlife. In collating these recurring images, we have been reminded of the timelessness of this green space, which has belonged to generations before and will belong to the generations that follow us.

It has been a busy few months, working hard to get the systems in place but we are now well under way, and looking forward to what new revelations may come up as we continue in our task.



Postcards from the Hearsam Collection

Richmond Park Quiz

Pit your wits (adults welcome to try too) against those of this summer's Open Day visitors, who provided no 100% correct entries, and only one, the prize-winner's, with just one error. Some of the answers can be found on the back of the Richmond Park map available from the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge and Richmond Tourist Office, some in this and previous newsletters, and others in guide-books and leaflets available at the Visitor Centre. Our quiz-masters are aware that different sources may give slightly different or out-of-date information and answers, and a few may be matters for debate, but in this instance their answers (which can be found on page 2) are final.

The Park

1. How big is it (in acres)? (a) 500 (b) 1500 (c) 2500 (d) 3500?
2. How many gates are there? (a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 11 (d) 12?
3. What is the distance (in miles) around the walls? (a) 7 (b) 8 (c) 9 (d) 10?
4. When was it created? (a) 1550 (b) 1637 (c) 1702 (d) 1817?

Deer

5. Which 2 species live in the Park? (a) Fallow (b) Red (c) Roe (d) Sika?
6. How big is the Park herd? (a) 450 (b) 550 (c) 630 (d) 750?
7. What is a male Red Deer called? (a) buck (b) bull (c) stag?
8. When is the rut? (a) spring (b) summer (c) autumn?



Birds



9. How many bird species were seen in 2009? (a) 76 (b) 96 (c) 116 (d) 136?
10. How many bird species breed in the Park in 2009?

(a) 45 (b) 50 (c) 55 (d) 60?

11. Which of these species breed in the Park? (a) Cuckoo (b) Kestrel (c) Skylark?

12. How many pairs of Parakeets are breeding in the Park? (a) 50 (b) 100 (c) 150 (d) 200+?



Insects

13. Which is the most famous insect in the Park? (a) Locust (b) Stag Beetle (c) Termite?

14. How many species of beetle live in the Park? (a) 150 (b) 550 (c) 950 (d) 1350?

15. How many species of moth live in the Park? (a) 150 (b) 350 (c) 550 (d) 750?

16. How many ants live in an anthill? (a) 100 (b) 1000 (c) 6000 (d) 12000?



Trees

17. Which is the most important tree for wildlife? (a) Ash (b) Beech (c) Oak?

18. Name the tree that grows along Beverley Brook (a) Elm (b) Hornbeam (c) Willow?

With thanks to Ray Garrett and Peter Burrows-Smith. Photo on left by Sam Rowley (<http://samrowley.zenfolio.com/>); others from the newsletter archive

Membership and Gift Aid

Gift Aid mandates continue to trickle in, but still from only around 40% of you. Our Treasurer has been able to reclaim over £500 from HMRC to date, so you can see that signing up really does make a difference to our funds and will continue to do so. Please will you fill in the form enclosed with this Newsletter? If you are unable to sign this declaration, it helps if we know this, so that we do not continue to issue you with reminders.

Sheila Hamilton, Hon Membership Secretary

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

Application forms and Gift Aid Mandate forms can be downloaded from our website www.frp.org.uk.

Queries about the Friends?

For more information about the Friends of Richmond Park see www.frp.org.uk, or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or max.lankester@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@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.royalparks.gov.uk

Police non-emergency telephone number: 0300 123 1212

Friends monthly email

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

WANTED

The Park Police Panel needs a new secretary. The Panel meets four times a year and the secretary's work includes arrangements for the meetings (usually at Holly Lodge), minutes and generally supporting the Chairman, Peter Burrows-Smith. If you are interested, or would like to know more, please contact Peter on 0208 392 9888.

Trustees

Chairman: Ron Crompton

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

Other Trustees: Brian Baker (Visitor Centre), Nick Coleman (Website), John Collier, Teresa Grafton (Education), Richard Gray (Marketing), P J Greeves (Events), John Karter (Press and Publications), Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), Jack Maunders (Hon. Treasurer)

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

President: Lord Rix, CBE

Friends walks and courses**WALKS**

All welcome. Most, though not all, walks start at 10.00am from a car park.

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 at Pembroke Lodge followed by a 2-hour walk. Courses are for Friends members only and places must be booked — please contact Sue on 0208 549 8975 or sue.gibbons@npl.co.uk. Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

See also www.frp.org.uk

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	Time	What and where
6 Nov	10.00am	WALK with fungi option: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
4 Dec	10.00am	WALK: meet at Kingston Gate car park
26 Dec	10.00am	WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park
1 Jan	10.00am	WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park
15 Jan	10.00am	COURSE: Introduction to Birdwatching.*
5 Feb	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
19 Feb	10.00am	COURSE: Birds of Richmond Park*
5 Mar	10.00am	WALK: meet at Robin Hood Gate car park
19 Mar	10.00am	COURSE: Spring Birds and Bird Song*
2 April	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park

Other events

Sat 30 April Friends of Richmond Park AGM, at King's House School, 68 King's Road, TW10 6ES — details in next newsletter.

Organising anniversary events - can you help?

As we are organising at least two major events as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations, the FRP trustees are looking to find volunteers with specific experience in running and organising events (see page 7). Although we have the venues booked and many elements in place, we need people with the skills and experience to manage and coordinate live events. If you think you can help, please contact Richard Gray at richard@rgcmarketing.co.uk.



The Friends of Richmond Park

Registered charity No. 1133201

www.frp.org.uk

*Richmond Park is a National Nature Reserve, a Site of Special Scientific Interest
and a Special Area of Conservation*