



**FRIENDS of  
RICHMOND PARK**

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

**NEWSLETTER Summer 2010**



**Young people's photography competition winners**

**Park trees**

**The way we were**

**Coming up: Open Day 2010**

## Welcome

...to our freshly redesigned newsletter. Despite the new look, this issue has a historical feel as we feature some of the memories of the Park being collected for the History Project and for the Friends' 50th anniversary next year, and former Talks Secretary Doug Reynolds recalls his 30 years of talking about the Park's history.

But we don't just look back. We look at the Park today on our news pages and, on page 12 and our covers, through the lenses of some excellent young photographers, and we look to the future in our Chairman's piece on the facing page and in our feature about the Park's trees.

Our newsletter now uses the same colours and styles as other recently redesigned Friends publications and the website. We have also taken advantage of the ever-decreasing cost of colour printing to go full colour throughout, enabling more flexibility within our 14 pages and better use of the many lovely photographs that come our way.

Enjoy both the newsletter and the Park this summer!

Marilyn Mason  
[marilyn.mason@virgin.net](mailto:marilyn.mason@virgin.net)

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



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

### Cover photos

Prize-winning entries to the 2010 Young People's Photography Competition:

**Front:** Georgie Hewitt's *New Beginnings* [Not quite seasonal, but too beautiful not to feature]

**Back:** Jessica Darlington's *Parakeet* [A stunning photo of everyone's favourite Park bird]

## WANTED

### — for our archive, material from the 60s, 70s and 80s

We are creating an archive of the history of the Friends, ready for our 50th anniversary next year. We have lots of material relating to the last 20 years, but are short of material from the 60s, 70s and 80s (and also the early 90s). If you have anything relating to the Friends during that period (newsletters, minutes of meetings, press cuttings, photographs, letters etc) we would be delighted to hear from you. We can collect the material, scan it and return it to you if you want it back.

**THE HISTORY PROJECT WOULD ALSO WELCOME:** occasional advice on copyright law and practice, particularly as it relates to old photographs, postcards etc; and someone to act as back-up for Stephen Scott, who is the only person who understands the IT setup and housekeeping procedures for the project PC.

**IF YOU CAN HELP,** or for more information, please contact Ron Crompton at 143 Palewell Park, SW14 8JJ or 020 8876 1123 or [ron.crompton@frp.org.uk](mailto:ron.crompton@frp.org.uk).

## Protecting the Park

The Friends has a new motto: "Protecting Richmond Park's peace and natural beauty for future generations". The words are taken from our new objectives as a charity. What do they mean, and why those particular words?

They reflect our belief that we have a responsibility to future generations to pass Richmond Park on in at least as good a state as we inherited it. Richmond Park is a unique natural asset — a large slice of nature in the midst of a crowded urban area, with a landscape that has evolved gradually over the centuries. For Londoners it provides an escape to peace and tranquillity. For wildlife, including some very rare species, it is home.

Natural assets are special. We did not create them, yet we are depleting them rapidly; at the present rate there will be little left for future generations. The future will be awash with man-made assets — all sorts of devices for entertainment, transport, health, looking good and so on — but it will be perilously short of natural assets, and Richmond Park will be even more valuable then. If we do not preserve it, future generations may well look back at us and ask how we could have squandered such an inheritance.

"A culture is no better than its woods," said the poet W.H. Auden, bemoaning man's destruction of forests and woodlands. If that is true, Richmond Park's 500 acres of woodlands and plantations, with their 100,000 trees, ought to provide a rich and glorious basis for our culture (see feature on page 8). But we tend to be complacent about nature. We have tamed it, so it cannot have much effect on us any more. However, every so often it

disrupts our nice, ordered lives, as the Icelandic volcano showed, or destroys something we hold dear but take for granted. Let us hope that threats to the Park's trees do not go that far.

To turn from the sublime to the mundane, as I write (in late May), the new coalition government is planning to transfer responsibility for the Royal Parks to the GLA. Is this a good thing? Well, if it means more money for Richmond Park, that is clearly good. However, I wouldn't count on it. An official reason for the transfer is "increase in local accountability", but if that is so, why not give responsibility to the local councils rather than the GLA? The new set-up runs the risk of squabbles between the GLA and local councils, and of the Park becoming more subject to political interference.

An unofficial reason I have heard is that the Mayor is very short of places to hold big events. Only two months ago the GLA proposed to install large screens in Regent's Park to show all the World Cup games, with seats for 20,000 people and alcohol served all day. They withdrew the proposal because of local objections, including London Zoo's concerns about the disastrous effect it would have on the animals.

We will await the details before forming a Friends' view. If you have any thoughts, please let me know.

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 143 Palewell Park  
 London SW14 8JJ  
 Tel: 020 8876 1123



### New Look Friends

The Friends' new logo has already appeared on the latest membership form, on the banner for our stalls at fairs, on fliers such as the one enclosed with this newsletter, and now of course on the cover of this newsletter. It also features on our redesigned website, which went live on May 1 (at the normal address of [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)) and is cleaner in appearance and easier to find your way around than the previous one. The newsletter redesign brings us into line with this general makeover. We are very grateful to Colin Porter and the Brand Foundry in Chiswick, who developed the redesign for us pro bono, and to Richard Gray, one of our Trustees and a marketing consultant, who devoted a lot of time to the project.

### Conservation volunteers

Conservation work has stopped for the bird breeding season, and will resume in September.



Conservation volunteers at work, left to right: Jan Wilczur, Mig Lumley, Peter Burrows-Smith, Janet and Hugh Bostock, Jack Maunders

### Cows take a break too

The three Highland cattle and two Dexters have returned to Bedfont Lakes to be looked after by the Hounslow Countryside Service who loan them to the Park. They will return this autumn to continue their valuable conservation work.

### A treat for Friends volunteers

*Michael Davison*

Volunteers accustomed to answering questions at the Visitor Centre had the chance recently to ask questions of their own on a visit arranged by History Project volunteer Christine Dunbar to White Lodge, and in particular to the Ballet Museum which has been set up in one of its curving wings.

Our group was welcomed by volunteer steward Nona Haslan who, as a former member of the London Festival Ballet, was well qualified to guide us through the museum. Its designers, working with curator Anna Meadmore, have made good use of modern display techniques to tell the story of ballet in a way that is clear and interesting even to non-balletomanes. There are cabinets of ballet memorabilia, and even drawers containing items such as ballet shoes that can be handled. A dual time line relates key stages in the history of White Lodge to concurrent developments in the art of ballet. Onto a niche in one wall is projected a video of a ballet dancer in action — an ingenious touch.

Nona also gave us a glimpse of the ground floor of White Lodge, with its hall containing sculptures and paintings of famous ballet dancers, and its wide balcony looking down Queen's Ride. One of buildings added in recent years, we were told, provides a practice area as wide as the stage of the Royal Opera House. On the day after our visit it was the venue for the BBC's "Question Time".

*For visits to the Museum, phone 020 8392 8440 or email [museum@royalballetschool.co.uk](mailto:museum@royalballetschool.co.uk).*



Looking towards White Lodge Photo: The Royal Parks

### And a treat for Terns too

*Michael Davison*

Even to those who think they know it well, Richmond Park always has new experiences to offer. I never thought I would have the chance to enjoy a view of the Park from a punt in the middle of Upper Pen Pond — yet such was my vantage point when Wildlife Officer Kia Handley rowed me across the pond to check the installation of our new Tern Raft.

Partly funded by the profits from sales at the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge, the raft is designed to attract some of the Common Terns which come to these shores in summer to breed after wintering in West Africa. As we rowed alongside the raft, I could see how it mimics in miniature the seashore habitat which is the Terns' favoured breeding place. A bed of pea gravel, looking like sand, is interspersed with large flinty rocks, and set with terracotta ridge-tiles to shelter any chicks that hatch.

Back on dry land, Senior Wildlife Officer John Bartram explained the raft in more detail. Measuring about 8 feet by 4ft, it floats on "logs" made of recycled plastic and has a low wall of perspex round its edge to deter

marauding ducks and geese, and to prevent chicks from falling off. The raft is securely anchored in mid-pond by cords weighted down by breeze blocks, to reduce movement to the minimum.

If Terns do nest successfully this year, it will be a welcome first for John in his 24 years in the Park. A pair of Terns did fly in last year and for a few weeks were seen fishing at Pen Ponds, where the photographs by Kerry Davies which appeared in the Winter and Spring Newsletters were taken. Their nesting attempt failed, but it is hoped that they will return this year and, given the encouragement of the raft, will breed successfully.

The Tern Raft is not the Wildlife Officers' only concern on Pen Ponds. After I had scrambled ashore, John and Kia left on a circuit of the Upper Pond, removing an earlier home-made Tern raft that needs repair, freeing fishing lines caught in tree branches and on the wire fence that runs across the pond, and trying to tug a floating plant raft free of the mud.

Update:  
Terns were seen on the raft by walkers on a recent Friends' walk. Will they nest and breed there? We'll keep you posted at the Visitor Centre, and in the Newsletter.



The Tern raft  
Photo: Michael Davison

### Making Friends

The Friends were at Richmond May Fair and, for the first time, at St Margaret's Fair this summer, for volunteers to explain what we do and recruit new members. We will be at Open Day in September (see next page).

### Richmond Park Dogwatch update



*Daisy in the Park*  
Photo: Susanna Ramsey

Richmond Park Dogwatch currently has over 70 members — dog-walkers and others who use the park regularly and help to make this lovely place safer for all its users — and would welcome more.

Over the past few months members have helped the police to monitor the issue of professional dog-walkers in the Sheen area, and as a result of reports of anti-social behaviour from members in the Kingston area several youths were dealt with for drugs and alcohol issues. Other problems dog-walkers can look out for include graffiti, fly tipping, damage to trees and other offences against the Park regulations.

Although the scheme was originally aimed at dog-walkers, you do not need to own or walk a dog to be a member of Dogwatch, and you can pick up an application form at the Visitor Centre.

The Richmond Park Safer Park Team can be contacted on 020 7161 9721 or by email [SPTRichmond@met.police.uk](mailto:SPTRichmond@met.police.uk).

### If you lose or find a dog...

The police are no longer responsible for the removal of stray dogs, but you should contact them about strays in the Park as they are a potential danger to the deer, traffic, Park users and themselves. Though the police do sometimes reunite stray dogs with their owners (see Spring newsletter), lost and found dogs in the Park are in fact now Richmond Council's responsibility. The Council keeps a register of them and will arrange for tethered strays to be collected and taken to Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, which you can telephone on 020 7622 3626, or visit the website at [www.battersea.org.uk](http://www.battersea.org.uk).

*With thanks to P C Kelvin Clarke of Richmond Park Safer Parks Team*

### Young deer

Until young deer are ready to follow their mothers they lie hidden in deep grass or bracken, with their mothers nearby. If you find one please leave it alone. If a Red Deer approaches you it is probably because she has a calf somewhere nearby — walking away from her may take you even closer to her calf, so instead you should retrace your footsteps and then take a different track. Park Management recommend that you keep to footpaths at this time of year, and that dogs are on leads or under close control.

### Parking in the Park— again

We await a final decision from the new government about parking charges. Since both the Liberal Democrats and the Conservatives opposed charges, they probably won't happen, but in the meantime the Friends is monitoring The Royal Parks' planning application to Richmond Council for installation of the necessary but somewhat obtrusive equipment, and may submit an objection.

## Bones and feathers on the menu for Park Open Day

This year's Richmond Park Open Day takes place on Sunday 19 September, from 11am to 4pm at Holly Lodge. Central to the Friends' involvement will be bones, feathers and owl pellets!

The Open Day is planned by The Royal Parks to be a "fun day out for all the family", and gives the Friends an opportunity to meet children and young families in particular. So this year we will share a stand with Susanna Ramsey of The Nature Collection (see [www.thenaturecollection.co.uk](http://www.thenaturecollection.co.uk)). Many of you will be familiar with Susanna's Nature Table which she took into local schools as part of the Friends Education programme.

She has now expanded this into an extraordinary hands-on assemblage of feathers (including complete owl wings), bones from Red deer to Grass Snakes and other specimens that provide children and adults with the unique opportunity to appreciate the beauty, colours and intricate detail of a huge variety of British mammals, birds and insects.

Most of the specimens are from Richmond Park (with The Royal Parks' approval) and Susanna takes the collection, together with her wonderful demonstration and learning aids, to schools all around south-west London.

(see Autumn/Winter newsletter) Part of the collection, including small mammal skeletons brilliantly reconstructed from owl pellets, was displayed by Susanna at the Richmond May Fair on the FRP stall and the interest and enthusiasm shown by both children and adults was overwhelming. One teacher said: "The children thought it was amazing — we did a show of hands with fingers giving scores, and it looked like it was 10 out of 10!" So if you have children between 5 and 15, please come to the Open Day. And even if you don't have children it's worth coming along!

Susanna will be giving three 20-minute slide presentations together with demonstrations of owl pellet dissection. The Friends will be there informing visitors about our objectives and recruiting new members, and we are asking for volunteers to help us with this and with stewarding duties. If you would like to help, see the flier with this newsletter.

Susanna has also written the six family trails that the Friends is due to publish. We hope to have these ready for the Open Day and to celebrate this and to link in with Susanna's own work in the Park, there will be a short sample trail round Holly Lodge, taken from the booklet, which you can follow.

*Richard Gray*

### Vole Bones Collected from Owl Pellets



## Park trees — man and nature working together

Members lucky enough to have heard Park Superintendent Simon Richards' presentation at the Friends' AGM in April will have learnt a great deal about the Park trees and seen some beautiful photographs. This article is based on a subsequent interview with Simon, with thanks to him and the very informative chapter on trees by Adam Curtis in the forthcoming Guide to Richmond Park, a collection of articles by experts on the flora, fauna, history and ecology of the Park compiled by the Friends of Richmond Park and due out in the autumn — watch this space. Marilyn Mason

Trees seem such a natural feature of the Park landscape that it comes as something of a surprise to learn how much they have been planted and nurtured by human hands — and still are. Nature sometimes benefits from neglect; for example, some of the veteran oaks that predate the 1637 enclosure of the Park probably survived human interference because even then



Veteran Oak in summer  
Photo: Nigel Reeve

they were too old to be used for anything other than firewood. But in an enclosed deer park nature often needs a helping hand, and since enclosure trees have been planted as boundaries and screening, particularly around the edges of the Park, for timber, for cover and food for game, for ornamentation, and for ongoing gap-filling. There is scarcely a patch of ground in the Park that has not had trees on it at some time or other, and all these trees have had to be painstakingly protected from the deer in order to grow to maturity, and carefully managed for longevity, conservation and public safety. The Park's trees are an encouraging example of nature and humankind working together to produce something beautiful and enduring.

Our ancestors were not as concerned as Park managers today about the provenance of their trees. They introduced exotic ornamental species such as Cedars in Petersham Park and *Rhododendron ponticum* in woodlands such as the Isabella Plantation. In the open parkland they planted aliens such as



Hawthorn lives on  
Photo: Gillian Jonusas

Horse Chestnut and Sweet Chestnut so successfully that most of us think these are native species, and they sourced replacement indigenous trees from far and wide. It was only in the 1930s that Park managers began to realise the benefits of locally-sourced native trees, and Simon Richards believes that some of the problems Park trees experience today are because they are not fully adapted to the local soil, climate and pests.

What are these problems and how are they being dealt with? Some trees are remarkably resilient, as Simon's slides demonstrate: they topple over and make new roots; green shoots emerge from dead-looking shells of trees; they survive amputations and pest infestations and the compaction of soil by thousands of feet; many of the veteran oaks have lived through periods of great cold and great heat and are probably capable of surviving future climate change.

Others are less robust, and most trees need some looking after: old trees can become top-heavy and prone to falling; dead branches need to be removed, sometimes more for our safety than for the sake of the tree; tree roots may have to be protected from compaction by fences or by relocating paths or benches; new trees have to be fenced for years against the deer; trees need to be regularly inspected for disease and pests; and pests like the Oak Processionary Moth have to be controlled, as much for public health reasons as for the good of the Oaks. Despite all this care, trees do die, sometimes of age, sometimes because of the stresses of pollution, weather and climate (Beeches, in particular, suffer in hot dry weather), and sometimes of diseases such as Acute Oak Decline which kills Oaks quite quickly and has taken hold in some parts of the Park.

When gaps have to be filled, the emphasis today is on increasing diversity and thus resilience to future stresses. This can mean sourcing native species from as close to the Park as possible, or introducing some rare native species such as the Black Poplar, which seem likely to thrive in the damper areas of the Park, or re-establishing native species such as Elm, choosing descendants from those Elms that survived Dutch Elm Disease. It can also mean replacing Horse Chestnuts, which are suffering badly from canker, with more Sweet Chestnuts, which flourish in hot dry conditions like their native Spain — though we are unlikely to see Olive groves in the Park just yet.

Although our trees may not be quite as nature intended, they provide habitats and food for numerous resident and visiting species as well as incalculable pleasure to human visitors to the Park.



Looking for Oak Processionary Moths  
Photo: Max Lankester

## The way we were

### Michael Bolton recalls the Park in war-time, and sheep...

A huge crop of thistles was one notable feature of Richmond Park in wartime recalled by Michael Bolton, latest veteran to respond to our appeal for contributors to the Friends' History Project. "With herds of sheep fertilising the ground," said Michael, "the thistles ran riot, avoided by the few remaining deer and with no labour available to mow them down."



Shepherdess in the Park, 1972  
Photo: Sunday Times

Michael has memories of the Park as a popular childhood haunt before the war. Skiffs, canoes and even motor boats could be taken out on the Boating Pond just inside Sheen Gate... When the war came, anti-aircraft guns were set up near the pond, with a military encampment for the gunners: "The guns made a frightful din. On one occasion they were dive-bombed by Stukas, but a barrage balloon stopped this from happening again."

The Park gates were closed to the public. "We knew a few ways in, though you couldn't get your bike through them, and we spent many hours playing in the Park courtesy of the artillerymen who didn't chuck us out." As well as the thistles, crops grew around Sheen Cross, as part of the "Dig for Victory" campaign.

### Graham Clifton recalls a Hare and boyhood freedom in the 50s:

"In Richmond Park, I nearly stepped on a Hare which 'exploded' from under my foot, and sprang off in long bounds. It was the Spring of 1958, I was nine, and walking from Roehampton Gate, up and across to Adam's Pond, with two friends, Brian and David. Brian's border collie, Jim, took off after the Hare. The Hare was already travelling very fast, in long bounds. After 30 yards, it executed a 90-degree left turn without breaking pace. Jim the collie ran on, in the general direction. After another 30 yards, the hare did a 90-degree right and disappeared from sight. Jim the collie sat down, until we caught up, and calmed him down.

...Walking in the Park as a child, with my friends and a dog and no parents to be seen was perfect happiness... Our ramblings were overseen by the regular presence of one of the Park rangers, a towering figure of authority to us small creatures, dressed in tweeds and plus-fours, and carrying a 12-bore shotgun broken over his arm. 'Lads! I hope you know to keep your dog on a lead near the deer?' You only had to see and hear that once!"

*Hares were still around on the golf course until 1972 at least. They are longer-limbed and can run faster than Rabbits (up to 30 or even 40 mph) but unlike Rabbits they do not breed underground and are therefore vulnerable to dogs and changes in farming practices. (From March 2010 Richmond Park Diary)*



Graham, with picture of himself as a boy

## Talk, Talk, Talk...

*After 30 years of giving talks about the Park, Talks Secretary Doug Reynolds has resigned in order to have more time for his other commitments in Kingston. Apart from a 3-month gap in 1999, Doug was also Chairman of the Friends from 1993 to 2000, and he remains a Vice-President.*

My involvement with the Friends started when my wife Doris, who helped with a club for the disabled, the Kingston Endeavour Club, suggested that I went along one Thursday evening as my old friend Gerald Jameson-Green — we used to go cycle racing together — was to give a talk on Richmond Park. Gerald's first words to me were, "Are you a member of the Friends of Richmond Park?" and then he promptly gave me a membership form.

I took an interest in their activities and eventually Gerald said that he was moving to Andover and asked if I would take over his commitment to give talks with slides. As I had retired I agreed, and took many slides of Richmond Park and put them in the order of a trip round the Park from Kingston Gate. My talks are mainly about the history of the Park, which I find fascinating. I gave my first talk to the Kenley Ward of Kingston Hospital on 28th October 1986 and have now given 483 talks.

The largest group was 150 U3A members at Croydon, and the smallest was 10 pensioners. My longest journey was to the Ferring Horticultural Society where there were 150 present and I met a lady I used to work with, so before and after my talk we reminisced about our times on the railway. The strangest of all my talks was when the Environment Trust organised a Ham

## Douglas G Reynolds

Common Week and I spoke to three groups working on the common about Ham Common and Richmond Park.

Last October the Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Councillor Ian McDonald, invited me to be guest speaker at his charity evening held at Pembroke Lodge. I like to have a hour for my talk with slides, though I can reduce this if requested; the Mayor gave me ten minutes, but I spoke for a bit longer!

In October 2003 a tree, a Cornus Hybrid, Eddie's White Wonder, was planted in the Birthday Glade of Isabella Plantation to recognise my contribution to the Friends. The first tree was eaten by caterpillars, so a new one was planted and is still in good condition, as you can see from the photograph, taken on one of the walks I led around the Plantation this year.



Doug in Isabella Plantation with his tree.

# The 2010 Photography Competition winners

This year's 134 competition entries were split into four age groups, and winners in each category gathered at Pembroke Lodge on Saturday 12 June for prize-giving. The judges were Tim Lennon and Sian Davies, both keen local photographers. Tim has been taking photographs since being given his first camera for his fifteenth birthday, and Sian is lucky enough to work at Pembroke Lodge and takes her camera to work most days. The winning photos will be displayed in the Visitor Centre.



- 2nd Samuel Helm *Wooden Knots*
- 3rd William Andrews *That's a Strange Leaf*
- Highly Commended
  - Eddie Caldas *Buck Fight*
  - David Alexander *Under The Fungi*
  - Emmeline *May Morning Dip*

## Under-7s

- 1st Kieron Bye *Snow Arch* (below)
- 2nd Isabel Andrews *In the Tree Tops*
- 3rd Benjamin Moore *I Like This Daffodil*
- Highly Commended
  - Hari Pnabhu *Richmond Park Nature*



## 7-11-year-olds

- 1st Libby Darlington *Mandarin* (see top right)

## 12-15-year olds

- 1st Jessica Darlington *Parakeet* (see back cover)
- 2nd Sasha Davis *Ray of Sunshine*
- 3rd Eleanor Cook *Fungus on a Birch Tree*
- Highly Commended
  - Sophie Lamb *Face of The Tree*
  - Lucy Smith *Feather Light*

## 16-18-year olds

- 1st Georgie Hewitt *New Beginnings* (see front cover)
- 2nd Zakkai Lovering-French *Sunbathing*
- 3rd Kat Waters *Echoes*
- Highly Commended
  - Zakkai Lovering-French *Hidden City*

Susanna and Katie Ramsey

# Insect Word Search

s	e	u	b	l	b	s	l	u	g
l	c	b	e	e	e	t	l	e	g
g	a	t	e	k	e	e	p	e	r
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n	e	a	p	k	l	i	a	n	s
C	r	i	C	k	e	t	d	d	s
g	p	a	o	o	l	m	y	l	h
r	i	d	m	o	t	h	b	r	o
f	l	y	m	o	e	t	i	e	p
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w	a	s	p	p	k	b	d	i	e
a	r	e	p	p	i	k	s	p	r
r	g	r	C	r	i	a	n	s	l

- Skipper
- Moth
- Snail
- Slug
- Gatekeeper
- Comma
- Cricket
- Grasshopper
- Ladybird
- Wasp
- Fly
- Bee
- Ant
- Beetle
- Spider

Take a look at my new website at [www.thenaturecollection.co.uk](http://www.thenaturecollection.co.uk)

Comma

Large Skipper

Peacock

Gatekeeper



Can you find these park butterflies in the park?

J	d	s	g	l	d	d	a	J
e	l	p			d	s	e	w
d	p	J		l	u	e	l	
d	a	l			w	A	l	J
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		A			o		d	
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Answers

**Membership and Gift Aid**

A third of you have now completed Gift Aid mandates and returned them to me and I am now in pursuit of the other half! I would like to thank all those of you who have taken this action, which will help our funds.

A form is enclosed with this newsletter for those who have not already sent one in, so please do so if you can. I appreciate that some of you may not be able to, perhaps because you do not currently pay UK taxes or because your membership is coming from a charity account. It is helpful to know this, so that we do not continue to chase you to sign up.

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

## WANTED — the oldest member of the Friends

An organisation such as ours (we are 50 next year) must have members in their 90s, or even older. We would like to get in touch with you to hear about the changes in Richmond Park you have seen over the years and your thoughts on those changes. If you can help us, please contact Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623 or email [sheilahamilton23@googlemail.com](mailto:sheilahamilton23@googlemail.com).

**Queries about the Friends?**

For more information about the Friends of Richmond Park see [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk), or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or [max.lankester@frp.org.uk](mailto:max.lankester@frp.org.uk).

**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](mailto:cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk), including your postcode.

**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](mailto:richmond@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.royalparcs.gov.uk](http://www.royalparcs.gov.uk)

**Police non-emergency telephone number:** 0300 123 1212

## Trustees

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**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.

**Patron:** 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 call Sue on 0208 549 8975. Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

See also [www.frp.org.uk](http://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.

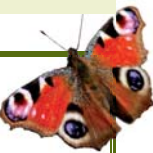
Date	Time	What and where
3 July	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
10 July	10.00am	COURSE: <b>Butterflies</b>
24 July	<u>8.30pm</u>	WALK, <b>Summer Evening</b> : meet at Sheen Gate car park
7 Aug	10.00am	WALK: meet at Kingston Gate car park
4 Sept	10.00am	WALK: meet at Robin Hood Gate car park
2 Oct	10.00am	WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park
9 Oct	10.00am	COURSE: <b>Deer</b>
16 Oct	10.00am	WALK, including <b>Autumn Birds</b> : meet at Pembroke Lodge car park

## Other events

19 Sept Richmond Park Open Day (see page 7)

## WANTED — butterfly watchers

As the butterflies of the Park's grasslands appear over the summer, your help is needed to record them. There is no need to be an expert, just to be interested in butterflies. Training will be provided, and you could make a significant contribution to our knowledge in this area. We made this request at our AGM on 24 April and a good number of Friends have started recording, but we could do with more volunteers to record the butterflies you see in just a small area convenient to you on two to six occasions between now and 30 September. If you are interested, please contact Ray Garrett on 020 8546 5958 or at [rtgarrett@phonecoop.coop](mailto:rtgarrett@phonecoop.coop).







**The Friends of Richmond Park**

Registered charity No. 1133201

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

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