



FRIENDS *of*
RICHMOND PARK

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

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2011



Poetry in the Park

A Park Oak at the Tate

Park butterflies — today and a decade ago

Welcome

This newsletter rounds off the Friends' 50th birthday celebrations with a centre-page supplement on the Poetry Competition, and one or two other anniversary news items.

My "provocative" piece on cycling in the Park proved less contentious than I expected. I received a supportive email from Jill Winsor, who describes herself as "a sedate lady cyclist who is sometimes taken aback by the casual anti-cycling views voiced at meetings... [which] seem odd considering how little impact cyclists have on the Park compared with cars." She recounts her worst cycling experiences in the Park: "...being told by someone on the Tamsin Trail, 'Get off the path, you're on a ****ing mountain bike, aren't you,' (I wasn't), in front of his two small children. I've been chased and bitten by a dog — the owner said 'he hasn't done that for years' as if that helped!" Even a letter in the local paper complaining about speeding cyclists and suggesting that they should buy permits to use the Park, acknowledged that the majority "co-exist with other road users amicably" — as we do!

Another email, from Mike Turner, suggested that "perhaps the park could do with less income, spend less, and become wilder, different from the urban scene? Perhaps we are too fussy about keeping the park 'nice'; even more controversially, he wonders whether we should "ban cars from the Park — a

park is not a highway, or shouldn't be..." For a different perspective on cars see page 11. That article also features butterflies from a decade ago, an interesting comparison with those in the article on pages 8 to 9.

Marilyn Mason
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They look so harmless — but see next page.
Photo by Will Coleman

Cover photos:

Front cover by Will Coleman, 17-year-old student at Hampton School

Back cover: Park winter scene from Friends Christmas card by Michael Davison

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Deer and humans

As I write this in mid-October, there have been four separate incidents of rutting stags attacking people in Bushy Park — and one incident of a swan caught between two fighting stags. The national media are reporting it excitedly. Headlines talk of "rogue deer", "the Beast of Bushy" and "stags terrorising beauty spots". The blogosphere is also full of it. One common view is that "the deer are aggressive and a danger to people and dogs, and should be removed from the Royal Parks, or kept in an enclosure during the rut", though there are also more moderate views.

Of course the deer are aggressive. The rut is raw aggression. Males that are not aggressive don't get to mate. But people are also being aggressive. Go to Richmond Park in the early morning during the rut and you will see large numbers of photographers crowding the deer to get the best shot. At least one of the Bushy attacks was a deer trying to get away from photographers and finding a walker in its path.

People can also be very stupid. During the summer, a group of fallow bucks hung around Pembroke Lodge car park being fed by people. Some visitors held up their small children with food in their outstretched fingers. Visitors put photos and videos on the internet of themselves feeding the deer, encouraging others to do it.

What is happening here? Two things, I think. Firstly, as is often said, people today are removed from nature in the raw. They experience nature through TV programmes, magazines, pets or gardens — all areas where nature is friendly and man is in control. They expect their rare direct experience of nature to be the same. When it is not

(as it wasn't with the rutting stags) they panic and demand that the nastiness be controlled or removed.

Secondly, the media generally spread and exaggerate panic (and delight). They always have. But cuts in the traditional media (newspapers, TV) mean they have lost the experienced staff who once provided a moderating influence. Social media spread the news more quickly, with little understanding of the issues. They rely on crowd knowledge to moderate the panic, often it is slow in coming and until it does rumour and panic reign.

What will be the next panic? Well, this year there seems to have been an unusually high incidence of Lyme disease, caught from deer ticks. It could be higher again next year. Or Oak Processionary Moth is now widespread in the Park with almost 1,000 nests found this year, and the Park authorities struggling to manage it (they have given up trying to contain it). Its hairs are toxic to humans. Spraying with insecticides can be effective but destroys other species. Or it could be the poor deer, their space yet further invaded by humans, who become really aggressive.

Who knows what will happen next year? Nature is unpredictable. But if things do go wrong, expect more panics and demands to control or eradicate whatever the threat is, at any cost — and to hell with the National Nature Reserve and biodiversity.

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Events in the Park

Summer and early autumn events in the Park kept the Friends busy, and there was some good news when the open-air film shows were cancelled by Nomad Cinema at relatively short notice. The official reason was poor advance bookings, but the organisers told us that it was due to “input from relevant parties, in particular the Friends of Richmond Park” (and also the Wildlife Group). A big thank you to all those who wrote letters and e-mails to Nomad, TRP, MPs and DCMS.

Olympics in the Park - 1



August briefing for volunteer cycle race observers

The 45 members of Friends who volunteered to monitor the Olympics test cycling road race through the Park, produced a comprehensive view of the race's impact which we communicated to LOCOG, the Olympics organisers, at a meeting in September. This included inadequate protection of some sensitive areas, poor numbers and training of stewards and marshalls (despite LOCOG's promises), and no provision for those who cycled to the event, leading to a great deal of off-track cycling. We have written formally to LOCOG and expect to see plans to rectify these when we next meet early in 2012. One unintended consequence of the Olympics is that the biennial Park Open Day will have to move from its usual time in mid-summer — watch this space for updates.

In the summer newsletter, we described the problems with the first Park marathon in May. We gave our input to Park management and that, together with their own observations, resulted in the organisers being told that they could not repeat the event next year. There seems to be general recognition that no races should cut across the centre of the Park and should generally be confined to the Park edges.

Finally, the annual duathlon in September passed uneventfully. It is well established and organised, uses only roads for the races, and the base area is on the field opposite Roehampton Gate car park which is already heavily degraded by visitors picnicking and playing informal ball games. So the impact on the Park is minimal and we have not opposed it.

Christmas is coming!

The Friends have produced Christmas cards again this year — six seasonal images of Richmond Park in the snow, taken by Michael Davison (see photo on back cover). The cards are £1 each or 6 for £5.00 and were very popular last year — so hurry whilst stocks last!

And for map enthusiasts, there is a poster print of the 1951 edition of the Ordnance Survey map of Richmond Park (£5). It features historical information including the field boundaries before the Act of Enclosure by Charles 1 in 1637, old place names, and where to catch your trolley-bus.

The cards and maps are available from the Visitor Centre which is open Friday — Sunday from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

The *Guide to Richmond Park* continues to sell well, and work has started on a 2nd edition, which should be ready just before or immediately after Christmas. Local writer June Sampson gave

Family Trails an excellent review in the *Surrey Comet* in September, concluding: “Reading this book has made me realise that, after living near and visiting the park for more than 40 years, I hardly know it at all.” Both the *Guide* and *Family Trails* are stocked in many local bookshops as well as at the Visitor Centre, and would make excellent stocking-fillers.

Oak Processionary Moth

At the end of September, Park staff gave Friends a review of another disturbing year, with 1927 OPM nests detected and successfully removed from 716 trees. This, though a six-fold increase on 2010, should have a significant impact on reducing the number of moths next year. The detection work was supported by 35 volunteers, including many Friends, who spent 737 hours altogether on site during the key May to July period.

2012 is likely to be even more challenging, and Gillian Jonusas, the lead arboriculturist on the project, and her colleagues are already making their plans. Whatever the outcome, they are sure to want more volunteers in the Park next year. Apparently in Holland there had been some evidence that Green Woodpeckers were preying on OPM nests, but maybe that is too much to hope for in the Park!

Olympics in the Park - 2

One of the first of many books likely to attend the London Olympics is a sumptuously illustrated volume from English Heritage which acknowledges the Friends of Richmond Park as one of its sources, in the person of regular Newsletter contributor Michael Davison. *The British Olympics: Britain's Olympic Heritage 1612 - 2012* includes a chapter on the 1948 Games with details, contributed in part by the Friends, on the role played by

Richmond Park as an athletes' village and photographs of their spartan accommodation in former army barracks; these, as the book relates, disappeared in the 1960s except for a flight of concrete steps, often pointed out on Friends' guided walks and illustrated in the book by one of Michael's photographs, and one hut which became the club house of the Malden Rifle and Pistol Club.

Walking the Wall

On October 1st a group of members, led by John Collier, the previous Chairman, completed the second “Walk the Wall” of the year to commemorate the Friends 50th (see photo on page 14). The weather was unexpectedly warm, but most of the walk was in the shade of the various woods that abut the wall for much of its eight miles. Walkers passed the cottage called the “dog kennel” which was destroyed by a bomb during WW1, the gap in the wall caused by the land being given by George III to a local resident who complained that his garden was too small, and the place where one can see side by side the two main types of brick-laying used in the construction, English Bond (alternating courses of headers and stretchers — see right in the picture) and the more decorative Flemish Bond (headers and stretchers laid alternately within the same course — see left in the picture). Friends hope to repeat this great walk regularly.



Friends welcome French guests

Over the weekend of 14 – 16 October the Friends were very pleased to welcome guests from Fontainebleau, the town in France with which Richmond is twinned. M Denis Bauchard, a former diplomat who serves as the President of Les Amis de la Forêt de Fontainebleau (AFF) was accompanied by his wife Geneviève. This visit, timed to coincide with FRP's 50th anniversary, followed visits by FRP members to Fontainebleau a few years ago at the time of AFF's 100th birthday.

Richmond Park and the Forêt de Fontainebleau have some things in common, both being former royal hunting grounds and having the protection of various statutory environmental designations. In size, however, our Park, at 1,000 hectares, is dwarfed by the Forêt, which covers over 20 times that area.

The weekend was organised jointly with the Richmond in Europe Association (REA), and we are very grateful to Helen Evans of REA for her help in organising the weekend's activities. Helen's French counterpart, Mme Françoise de Gaullier, Vice President of Fontainebleau's twinning organisation, was also in Richmond for the weekend. Helen kindly hosted a champagne reception at her Richmond Hill apartment, and Cllr Frances Bouchier entertained the party for morning coffee. On Saturday afternoon, our guests went either to Kew Gardens or Ham House.

We were treated to glorious autumn weather throughout the weekend, and a cool misty morning on the Sunday provided a beautiful setting for seeing groups of deer in the latter part of the annual rut. After a circular walk from

Sheen Gate we toured the Park in a minibus loaned to us by the Holly Lodge Centre, and the sky cleared during a short visit to the Isabella Plantation, where M Bauchard, Mme de Gaullier and Ron Crompton

were able to see the tree which had been planted in May 2005 by the Mayors of Richmond and of Fontainebleau. The photographs show the 2005

planting and the recent visit. The weekend concluded with lunch at the home of Brenda Morris of REA, and we are grateful to Brenda for her hospitality.

The Friends have received an invitation from Denis Bauchard to visit Fontainebleau in the first week

of May 2012. Some local events will be organised by AFF for the party, but FRP members would have to make their own travel and hotel arrangements. Anyone interested in joining the party should contact Max Lankester on 020 8940 7898 or at max.lankester@frp.org.uk.



The Planting Ceremony in 2005



Denis Bauchard, Françoise de Gaullier and Ron Crompton.

Conservation projects

funded by the Friends and the Visitor Centre for this anniversary year are progressing well. By the time you read this, work should have started on building the Sand Martin nest bank at the southern end of Pen Ponds. The Tern raft funded by the Visitor Centre has been a success, with a pair nesting and raising one chick this summer. Other Common Terns visited the site and it was clear that there was demand for more than one raft, so the Visitor Centre is funding a second, to be installed this winter.

Planting the "climate change trees", non-native trees which may be more resistant to climate change, is due to take place over the winter. Some Walnuts and Buckeyes have already been planted and Park management has bought Hickories, *Carya Cordiformis* and *Carya Ovate*, which are small and still in pots.

Some small native trees have been sourced, including Broad Leafed Lime, different Willows, Wych Elm and Juniper, and further trees are being identified, with Sessile Oak top of the list.

Three of these projects have been partly funded by Healthy Planet, a charity that aims to improve the planet for future generations by taking small steps to make big differences. The Friends is one of its partners. Through

its adopt-a-plot scheme, Healthy Planet asks people to support conservation projects around the globe by "adopting" plots of land in the nature reserves it supports. The simple adoption process gives you various options, including "owning" your plot for different lengths of time. Payment is made securely via Paypal and you then receive a certificate via email. Adoptions can also be given as gifts with recipients receiving their adoption certificates on a day you choose. The money raised through adopting a plot in Richmond Park goes to the climate change or native tree projects, which you choose between. If you would like to adopt a plot, please visit Healthy Planet's website — www.healthyplanet.org/richmondpark.



Bird breeding this year

As well as the Common Terns, Hobby, the summer visiting falcon, bred successfully in the Park after a six-year gap. And Kingfishers have been seen fairly regularly on Upper Pen Ponds this summer, usually along the boundary with the Plantation.

"Tread Lightly"

With this newsletter is a copy of *Tread Lightly*, a leaflet informing people how to help to protect the Park and its wildlife. It has been developed jointly by the Friends, the Wildlife Group, the Park police and Park management. The police have been handing it out to visitors, we are asking cycling and running organisers to distribute it, and we will also be promoting it widely to the general public.

With thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith, Ron Crompton, Max Lankester and Michael Davison for news items and photographs.

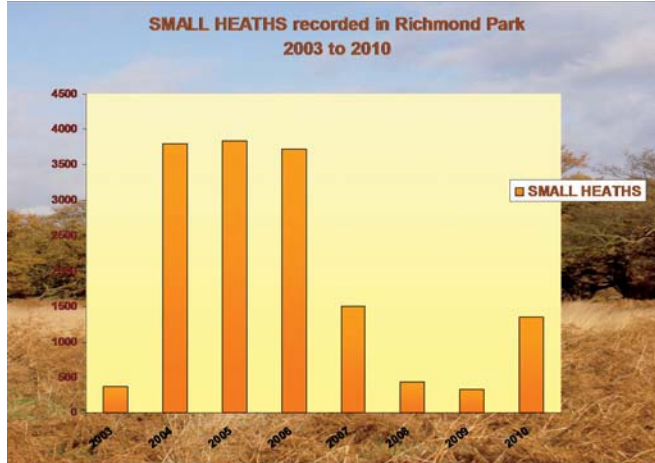
Butterfly recording in Richmond Park *Piers Eley*

Jeremy Thomas's wonderful book *The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland*, illustrated by Richard Lewington, gives details of 72 species found in these islands. In Richmond Park some 30 species have been recorded since we started keeping regular records around ten years ago (see page 10), just in time for our initial results to be incorporated in the Millennium Atlas.

This may seem a disappointingly small number, but there are probably no more than ten butterflies commonly seen in our gardens. All of these are regularly recorded in Richmond Park, but in addition we have a fair number of less common butterflies, most of which breed in the Park in larger numbers than have been recorded anywhere else in Greater London.

Richmond Park has two features that are unique among the London parks. Firstly, it has the largest area of acid grassland of any of these. The Small Heath (*illustrated left*) is probably the most important of our grassland butterflies, because it prefers the shorter thinner grasses of the acid grasslands, a habitat requiring poor and unimproved soil. Like all butterflies, its numbers are subject to huge fluctuations, depending on the weather conditions at key moments in its breeding cycle. The chart (*above right*) shows how its numbers have fluctuated in recent years, reaching a worryingly low level by the

start of last year. There are two hatches of this butterfly, one in spring and one in late summer. The improvement in 2010 was largely in the final quarter, leaving a concern that the very cold winter might have set back recovery. Fortunately, numbers seem to have been increasing again this year. When we began contributing information to Butterfly Conservation in 2003, we showed one of the highest counts of these butterflies in South West London and Surrey, remarkable when one considers that all the other high counts were coming from the chalk downs.



Secondly, the Park has one of the largest collections of ancient Oaks in Europe, providing a habitat for a butterfly that probably breeds in the Park in larger numbers than anywhere else in Greater London, the Purple Hairstreak (*illustrated right*).

Another beautiful and quite rare butterfly, the White Admiral (*illustrated right*) has also been repeatedly found in one area on the edge of the Park, and steps are being taken to try to encourage its breeding in the park by the introduction of the native Honeysuckle on which its caterpillars feed.



Unfortunately the standard transect walk is a poor way of recording the Purple Hairstreak, which spends most of its time in the tops of the Oak trees and so tends to be outside the imaginary boxes of the transect recorders. We have therefore devised a specific Purple Hairstreak walk around one of the key areas for this butterfly, so that we can collect more accurate data on the population fluctuations of this locally important butterfly.

In addition to the transect walks, we have a growing number of volunteers who visit one or more specified area of the Park as often as they can during the year to record whatever butterflies they see. In this way, we have been able to gather details of the butterfly communities in almost every area of the Park and have identified and recorded some apparently established breeding colonies within the Park for the first time. A good example of this is the Ringlet (*illustrated right*), which until recently had only been recorded as an occasional visitor to

the Park, but is now known to be breeding in at least one area.

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Another advantage of the wider recording is that it makes it more likely that rare forms of some of our butterflies will also be recorded. This year, one of our recorders, Simon Silvester, spotted and photographed an unusual form of partially albino Small Copper. Other rare aberrations of Purple Hairstreaks and Commas have also been spotted in this way. Richmond Park may not be unusual in harbouring rare aberrant specimens, but it probably is unusual in the number of recorders that we now have covering the area!



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Piers Eley is Chairman of Richmond Park Butterfly Group, and took all these photographs in the Park. If you would like to learn more about the Park's butterflies, please contact Piers on 0774 896 5017 or piers@eleys.net, or his colleague Ray Garrett (rtgarrett@phonecoop.coop), who organises the volunteer recorders, to arrange to accompany one or more of the recorders on a walk.

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The Richmond Park Magazine

Marilyn Mason

Freinds Chairman Ron Crompton recently lent me three issues of *The Richmond Park Magazine* produced by the Richmond Park Wildlife Group in the autumns of 1998, 1999 and 2000. In some ways a precursor of this newsletter, the magazine offered nicely illustrated introductions to the Park's flora and fauna. Topics covered in the three issues include: badgers, butterflies, Isabella, a celebration of the Park's designation as a National Nature reserve (in 2000), Stag Beetles, rabbits, sightings of (and concerns about) Ring-Necked Parakeets, water birds, hornets...

The 1998 focus on "Gardens for Butterflies" Year makes an interesting comparison to this year's sightings, featured on pages 8 and 9. Actual numbers of butterflies were described as "disappointingly small, due in large part to extensive areas of Bracken and short nibbled grass, which provides virtually no sustenance for them". However, more than 20 species had been recorded in the Park, mostly in "special locations" such as fenced-in areas and the Isabella Plantation, and the article recommended more areas like these, and turning some of them into flower meadows, whilst recognising that this was not easy and might require "winter grazing by sheep and other

domestic animals". The final list of butterflies recorded in the Park in 1995 to 1997 was: Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Small Skipper, Large Skipper, Essex Skipper, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper, Small Copper, Purple Hairstreak, White Letter Hairstreak, Small Heath, Brimstone, Orange Tip, Large White, Small White, Green-veined White, plus an unconfirmed report in 1997 of a Brown Argus.

The Autumn 1999 issue contained a useful seasonal guide to autumn leaves, reproduced on the next page, as well as articles on how to recognise trees by their bark, owls (by the Park gamekeeper) and hornets: "the area in and around Richmond Park remains a stronghold" wrote the author, a fan of these "gentle" creatures, and he provided the handy indentikit below to help sting victims distinguish hornets from the much more likely aggressor, the wasp.

The Autumn 2000 issue included a guest editorial by David Attenborough who wrote, "Now our Park has become a National Nature Reserve. What difference will that make to its management? As I understand it, it will mean that the Royal Parks, in collaboration with English Nature, will ensure that



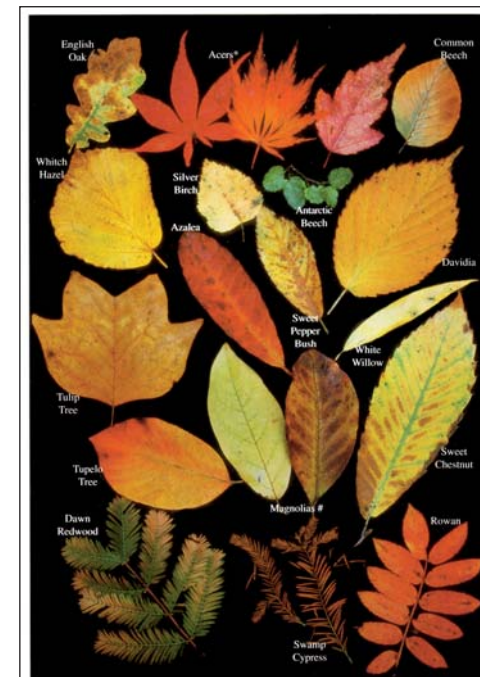
whatever else may happen, everything will be done to preserve the great variety of species of animals and plants that exist in the Park today, which will make it important both nationally and internationally. That is wonderful news."

Another article in this issue, "Richmond Park — Possible Futures" expressed a different, rather more sceptical view, foreseeing difficulties in reconciling "the Park's 'green lung' role with its designation as an National Nature Reserve, leaving aside the question whether this latter designation was really appropriate,

and whether the measures that need to be taken to preserve and enhance its biodiversity are compatible with its primary role", and also called for zoning in the Park, to make its central area less accessible and keep the peripheral areas for the majority of visitors. The same writer called for a reduction in the number of deer to permit other species to flourish, the clearance of bracken and Rhododendron, and the restoration of bogs. It was stressed that all these management changes would require money, even then, it seems, in short supply. A news item in the same issue refers to "controversy over possible restriction of Park motor traffic" and, taking a very wide view of wildlife conservation and biodiversity, asserts that "there is no evidence of which we are aware that traffic reductions, as currently under discussion, would have any significant influence."

Reading these magazines from a decade ago reminds one of the continuity and timelessness of the natural history of the Park and the concerns of its friends and protectors, but also reveals intriguing shifts in emphasis and management. Replacing non-native exotic trees with native species was one proposal in the 2000 magazine, though today our native species are under threat from a variety of pests as well as from climate change, and replacing at least some of them with more resilient non-natives is already under way (see page 7).

You can find out about some of the more recent activities of the Richmond Park Wildlife Group at <http://www.swlen.org.uk/looking-for-a-group/richmond-park-wildlife-group/>.



ABOUT TO FALL - NOVEMBER LEAVES
All printed approximately half actual size
 * Acer Palmatum - A. acuminatum - A. grimaldi # Magnolia stellata - M. sinensis
 Davidia is the Pocket Handkerchief Tree The Azalea is Rhododendron latifolium
 Royal Parks Agency, Holly Lodge, Richmond Park, Richmond Surrey TW10 5HS. Tel: 020 8948 3209
 The Richmond Park Magazine (1999)

Park Oak at the Tate



Among Richmond Park's 1,000 veteran Oaks, a few have a unique history that mark them as worthy of special respect.

One such is the John Martin Oak, a multi-branched oak pollard at the southern end of the Hornbeam Walk that leads south from Pembroke Lodge towards Ham Cross. Visible from the road, the tree is identifiable by the paling fence recently placed round it for protection. It is also clearly identifiable as the subject of a painting of nearly 200 years ago by the Victorian painter John Martin, now on view in an exhibition, "John Martin: Apocalypse", at London's Tate Britain.

Born in 1789 at Haydon Bridge near Newcastle, where the Tate exhibition originated, Martin enjoyed immense popularity in the mid-19th century for his dramatic oil paintings of biblical disasters and apocalyptic destruction with titles such as "The Fall of Babylon" and "The Destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum". Their backgrounds were perhaps partly inspired by the rugged landscapes of Martin's Northumbrian

Michael Davison

upbringing. One huge canvas, "Belshazzar's Feast", went on a tour of Britain and was seen by more than two million people.

By the age of 19 Martin had moved to London where he married and made a living by teaching and by painting watercolour landscapes. It was during this period of his life, in the 1840s, that Martin enjoyed some peaceful moments in Richmond Park and recorded them in two paintings in the current exhibition at Tate Britain. The tree named after him was probably 300 years old by Martin's time: surrounding it he paints a circular seat, which is marked as "Round Seat" on early O S maps. A contemporary critic said there was "much natural truth" in these views.

Martin died in 1854. His Richmond Park paintings formed part of a collection of 100 English watercolours made by Richard Ellison and given by his widow to the Victoria & Albert Museum, which has lent them to Tate Britain for the current exhibition, which is open until January 15. (For more information see www.tate.org.uk or phone 020 7887 8888.)

Pictures by Michael Davison: "Richmond Park" by John Martin (top left), and the John Martin Oak today (right)



Simon Richards

Richmond Park manager Simon Richards has now assumed responsibility for Bushy Park and the Longford River as well. He anticipates spending time at both parks each week, though his base and contact details remain unchanged (see page 14).

Royal Parks transfer

Yet another update on the proposed transfer to the Mayor! In July, just after our last newsletter, the government announced that the Royal Parks would not be transferred to the GLA as planned. Instead The Royal Parks agency would be retained in central government and a new Board would be set up, through which the Mayor could influence the running of the Royal Parks. The Mayor would appoint the Chairman and five external Board members, and it would also have three representatives from local councils, one from the Royal household and two from the management of the agency.

In October, there was a further announcement that the four members of the existing Board (the Chairman, Apurv Bagri, and three non-executive members) would continue for the next few years, with only two new Board members being appointed. The new Board has its first meeting on November 17.

The new arrangements are very different from what was originally proposed. How do they help Richmond Park? Firstly, the Friends were very concerned that the full transfer to the Mayor would result in the absorption of the Royal Parks into the GLA and it would lose its identity and management capability; now both of those will be



Light through trees by Sue Fernandes

kept. Secondly, it was possible that the Mayor (whoever it is in future) would use the Parks for a political agenda, particularly increased commercialisation; now there is much more of a restraint on him.

However, we are still concerned about two things. The first is the Board's commitment to environmental protection. There is no one on the current Board with environmental or ecological experience and we think there should be on the new Board. We will also be pushing for Bushy Park to be made a SSSI. The second is that there is no local say in the Parks other than through the councils. The Board has been told by the government to come up with ways to improve consultation with local communities and we will be pressing them for mandatory local consultation on all significant matters affecting Richmond Park.

The Richmond and Bushy Parks Forum, established by us and the Friends of Bushy Park, now has 38 local organisations involved in it. The Forum met on October 17 and agreed proposals to lobby on these two concerns — lack of environmental protection and local consultation — which we are now doing.

Ron Crompton

Membership and Gift Aid

We now have 1930 members, up from 1500 at the beginning of 2009 and the highest total since Barbara Cotton and I began managing the membership and the database of members. We attribute this increase to our appearances at many local fairs and events, boosted this year by media coverage of our 50th anniversary events and the tremendous sales success of our *Guide to the Park and Family Trails*.

The *Guide* at £9.99 and *Family Trails* at £6.99 would make excellent Christmas presents for family and friends. You could also add in a gift subscription to the Friends — please contact me before end November to arrange this.

By Gift-Aiding your subscription, you help the Friends further as we can claim back tax on all subscriptions and donations. All you have to do is to fill in the form enclosed (for those who have not already done so) if you pay UK tax, return it to me and we do the rest.

Subscriptions: £6 for individuals, £10 for households and organisations. All enquiries to me on 020 8876 2623.

Sheila Hamilton, Hon. Membership Secretary



Friends walking the wall in October

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: 0300 061 2200
Email: richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.royalparks.gov.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.

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: Nick Coleman (50th anniversary, Website), Teresa Grafton (Education), Richard Gray (Marketing), P J Greeves (Events), Rachel Hirschler (Visitor Centre), John Karter (Press and Publications), Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), David McLaughlin (Treasurer)

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

President: Lord Rix, CBE

Patrons: Sir David Attenborough, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Baroness Kramer of Richmond Park

Friends walks and courses**WALKS**

All welcome. Most, though not all, walks are on Saturdays and 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.

* **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
5 Nov	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
19 Nov	10.00am	COURSE: Fungi* (Janet Bostock and Elizabeth Cheeseman)
3 Dec	10.00am	WALK: meet at Kingston Gate car park
9th Dec (Fri)	10.00am	WALK: Birdwatching** . Meet at Pen Ponds car park
26 Dec	10.00am	WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park.
7 Jan	10.00am	WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park
21 Jan	10.00am	COURSE*: Introduction to Birdwatching (Peter Burrows-Smith)
4 Feb	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
18 Feb	10.00am	COURSE*: Birds of Richmond Park (Peter Burrows-Smith)
3 Mar	10.00am	WALK: meet at Robin Hood Gate car park
17 Mar	10.00am	COURSE*: Spring birds and bird song (Peter Burrows-Smith)
7 Apr	10.00am	WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park

** **NEW, for members only** — monthly Friday morning birdwatching walks, trialling for six months. Details in Friends emails, on the website and at the Visitor Centre.

Other events

6 Dec	7.00pm	Holly Lodge Centre Carol Concert , with a programme of readings by celebrities. Further information and tickets from 020 8940 8730 or linfo@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk.
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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*