



FRIENDS of RICHMOND PARK

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

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2011



**Days gone by — and days to come
The celebrations continue
Cycling in the Park
The Park through a lens**

Wanted: your voice

Would you like to contribute to these newsletters? Perhaps you'd like to write about your experience of the Park for a "My Richmond Park" piece (see page 8 for an example)? Or you might feel impelled to respond to my somewhat provocative Comment piece on page 7, or to raise another Park controversy? Maybe you've observed or photographed some interesting wildlife when out in the Park? Or are you one of our volunteer conservationists or helpers in the Visitor Centre, with news or anecdotes that would interest other Friends?

The usual editorial constraints apply, but we'd love to hear from you.

Marilyn Mason
marilyn.mason@virgin.net

Cover photo: "Starlings dance" by Alex Saberi

See page 8 for more about Alex and his Park photographs.

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.

The next twelve years

I was recently treated to a trip on a time machine and came across the following piece from a *Surrey Comet* of 2025.

'In retrospect, of course, the decline started in 2011. Looking back, we were all culpable but it was difficult to know when to say, "That's enough".

2011*: The marathon and film screenings are declared a great success by the participants ("A wonderful experience!") and The Royal Parks ("A very useful contribution to our income in these difficult times," say TRP). A few thousand spectators watch the trial of the Olympics road cycling race through the Park.

2012: The marathon grows to 500 runners. Film screenings increase to ten ("The Park is a great place for such events," says the *Comet*). On a hot day, 25,000 people watch the Olympics cycling race; the Olympics organisers call it "a resounding affirmation of the Olympic spirit", but later apologise for the litter, barbecues, damage to veteran trees and mass swimming in Pen Ponds.

2014: Three marathons are held, each of 1000 ("Still manageable given the size of the Park," say TRP). After local pressure, TRP replaces the film screenings with three small classical concerts which are a sell-out ("Such a lovely location for such lovely music!"). Inspired by the Olympics, thousands of cyclists now race around the Park each summer week-end; there is frequent conflict with motorists and pedestrians. TRP make the roads cycling only on Saturday and Sunday mornings, to widespread local protest.

2015: Four marathon runners are seriously injured when the crush along Pen Ponds causeway causes runners to fall down the steep bank. The media criticise the race for being unsafe, and so the width of the causeway is doubled. The steep hill beyond the causeway is also unsafe when it rains, so a wide new gravel path is made across to Pembroke Lodge, cutting through Queen Elizabeth Plantation. 5000 runners take part in each of the next year's three marathons.

2016: All three candidates for the London mayoral elections promise to fund a purpose-built road-cycling route around the Park. In winter, a second perimeter road is constructed alongside the existing one, with pedestrian bridges spanning it and the old road, now reserved for cars. Everyone — cyclists, car drivers and pedestrians — is happy.

2017: The plans for ten classical concerts attract criticism from politicians for being elitist, so TRP also stage a small rock concert featuring the local band the Roving Stones, then just starting on their rapid trajectory to stardom. The response is overwhelming, fans try to force their way into the concert, and fights break out. In winter the concert area and the nearby rugby field are combined by covering over Beverley Brook. A new car park is constructed and an area is tarmaced over for a refreshment and toilet "city".

2019: There are six marathons this year, each of 7000 runners. Charities, under pressure to maximise their fundraising, continue to press for more. The six rock concerts this summer attract 20,000 people each. Profits from the

races and concerts now cover all the costs of running Richmond Park ("A remarkable achievement," says a Government minister).

2020: The Park is re-named the Richmond Park Sports and Entertainment Arena, incorporating the Richmond Park Velodrome.

2021: A B-list celebrity running in the marathon is attacked by a deer protecting its young; other deer are chased by two dogs into a concert audience. The media are outraged and demand action. A new deer compound is created with a ten foot high fence. It becomes the foundation of the Richmond Park Nature Zoo and Interpretation Centre, which soon attracts over half a million people a year ("Amazing, you can see the deer so close!").

2023: In the new 20-storey Tesco superstore on Richmond Hill, two local women discuss a planned expansion of the Arena and decide to start a new conservation group: Save Richmond Park.'

Ron Crompton
ron.crompton@frp.org.uk
 143 Palewell Park
 London SW14 8JJ
 Tel: 020 8876 1123

*2011 events are all real - see page 13

The celebrations continue with a tour and entertainment at White Lodge



The School's Collections Manager, Anna Meadmore, leads a group of Friends around White Lodge

The Royal Ballet's Lower School has made its home in a former royal hunting lodge in Richmond Park since 1955. The Friends, formed just six years later, enjoyed our first ever formal visit and tour of White Lodge on 19th May as part of our 50th anniversary celebrations.

Over 200 members were guests of the Lower School and its head teacher Pippa Hogg-Andrews who, together with her staff, welcomed us warmly with refreshments, a fascinating tour and the opportunity to sit in with a class of students being put through their drills.

For most visiting Friends, it was their first time inside the White Lodge, which recently completed a £22.5 million redevelopment project. Like me, many had gazed through the iron gates at the top of the Queen's Ride at the Palladian façade and wondered how the school could be both a home, an academic

place of learning and one of the world's leading ballet schools for 125 boys and girls aged 11-16. Each year around 1,000 young people audition for a place, and currently the intake is split equally between the sexes, the boys' numbers having been recently boosted by the Billy Elliot phenomenon.

The Friends were treated to a detailed tour of not only the main buildings, Museum and

Resource Centre, and the new accommodation blocks, but we even saw the building from below as we descended into the old basements.



Friends see White Lodge from below.

Richard Gray

The staff gave up three hours of their valuable time acting as tour guides, historians and ballet aficionados. We learnt much about how the former home of British monarchs (Edward VIII was born there), dukes and prime ministers eventually became home to the Royal Ballet Lower School.

To crown our afternoon, we were treated to a forty minute class with a group of students and their teacher within the new Fonteyn Studio Theatre, named after one the School's most famous alumni.

Afterwards, Pippa Hogg-Andrews wrote to thank us for the £800 the visiting Friends donated at the end of the tour, and said that her staff had thought the

day "went very smoothly with minimum disruption to routine here and what a lovely group the Friends are. It felt easy because everyone was so interested and enthusiastic!"

FRP trustee Nick Coleman commented: "What a super day! Pippa and her team did lots of planning for the Friends' visit and pulled out all the stops to give us all a good time. It's such a wonderful place – a true home of excellence. And to see the view of Richmond Park from the Salon – wonderful."

In the buildings and grounds there are some stunning sculptures; the beautiful Three Graces pictured below is by self-taught Californian sculptor Richard Macdonald.

Photographs by Liz Coleman



...and a summer party



The weather gods smiled on us again as 200 Friends gathered on June 29 in the Belvedere Suite of Pembroke Lodge for their Anniversary Tea Party and spilled out onto the Terrace, where we enjoyed sandwiches and cakes to the music of the Quentin Collins Trio.

Trustees Teresa Grafton and P J Greeves had organised a rich feast of entertainments: a slide-show by chairman Ron Crompton highlighting salient moments in the Friends' history; boards displaying our numerous current activities — our conservation work, History Project, Poems in the Park competition, walks and courses; Susanna Ramsey displayed the diversity of the Park's wildlife in her celebrated collection; and a table was devoted to the Friends' latest forays into publishing — our new Guide, the History, and, hot off the press, a range of Richmond Park greetings cards with ten different images, all supplied free by the photographers so that profits from their sale in the Visitor Centre can be devoted to conservation work in the Park.

Holding pride of place in the Belvedere Suite was the amazing cake (pictured above), organised by Richard Gray,

Michael Davison

sponsored by Russell Cooke, and made by Sweetie Pies of Twickenham using 9 kilos of sugar, 7 kilos of butter and 80 free range eggs! Cutting it was entrusted to Wendy Macaulay, the only surviving founder-member of the Friends. Before wielding the knife, Wendy (pictured below with Ron Crompton) spoke

passionately of the Friends' early battles against traffic encroachment, and her amazement, delight and pride in seeing how the organisation she had helped to found had developed.

As we enjoyed the exhibits and Daniel Hearsom's generous hospitality, there was one further treat. On arrival, every guest had been given a name badge, devised by Mary Pollard, bearing the picture of something living in Richmond Park: a tree, a butterfly, a bird, a fungus. We were asked to seek out other guests wearing the same badge, to say hello and make new members feel welcome. So, as the wine began to flow, nuthatch called out to nuthatch and birch polypore sought its mate. All in all, a really happy finale to the Friends' celebrations.

Photos by Nicola Albon



Cycling in the Park

People often complain about cyclists in the Park, and the forthcoming Olympic road race makes cycling a hot topic once more — see our Chairman's report from 2025 on page 2. As a relatively well-behaved cyclist who thinks cycling is an ideal and peaceful way to enjoy the Park, I'd like to put our case.

Firstly and most importantly, all cyclists know who would come off worst in any collision, so the survival instinct makes most of us fairly careful. Helmets offer only partial protection, we are very fragile compared with cars, and we have further to fall than most pedestrians. On British roads 1000s of people, including cyclists, are killed or injured every year by cars. In contrast, so few are killed or injured by cyclists that it tends to make headlines which distort perceptions of the relative risks. In the Park, deer are sometimes injured or killed by cars, but, as far as I know, not one has been killed or injured by a cyclist.

Walkers and joggers are visible to cyclists and easily avoided. But they can make it hard for us by walking or running three or four abreast and by jumping about unpredictably when they hear a bicycle bell. They also tend to glare at cyclists, whether we use our bells or not, as if shared paths belong exclusively to them. Dogs too are usually easily avoided, though dogs on long leads stretched across paths can make cycling very hazardous.

Some drivers seem to resent cyclists using Park roads or to think that once cycle paths are provided, we are not entitled to be on the roads at all. I have even heard one driver complaining that she was unable to overtake a cyclist

Marilyn Mason

because he was cycling at 20 mph (the Park speed limit for those who've forgotten)! I'd always prefer to keep away from cars where there was a choice — but some of the Park's cycle paths are far from ideal. They are so gritty that braking hard can cause a skid and in some places so badly eroded that they make for an uncomfortable ride. So it's hardly surprising that some cyclists, particularly those on narrow tyres which are only really suitable for smooth surfaces, prefer the roads.

Cyclists are not always well-behaved, of course. My pet hate is other cyclists who don't keep to the left on cycle tracks, causing much wobbling and indecision as we approach each other. Some do speed, a few are rude to other road and path users, and some don't stick to the cycle — or any — paths, causing erosion and damage to vegetation. But the occasionally mooted idea that certain kinds of bike should be banned in the Park is unrealistic: bikes are not as easily categorised and distinguished as non-cyclists may think, and where there are faults, they are the faults of cyclists, not their bikes. Badly-behaved cyclists are the exception; they need educating, but they shouldn't be assumed to be typical, any more than bad drivers and irresponsible dog-owners are.

At Nigel Reeve's excellent recent talk to Friends on the ecology of the Park, he mentioned a grass snake that had been run over by a cyclist. That was very sad, but in fact cyclists do a tiny amount of damage compared to cars and dogs, we are more likely to be hurt by a deer than to injure one, and we make very little noise and even less pollution — unless you count the visual pollution of Lycra shorts and brightly coloured shirts.

Through a lens



My first experiences of Richmond Park were of being taken there in the summer by my parents and friends' parents when I was young. It felt like a never-ending area of green space, forests and ponds, and it was great fun playing there with my friends. Then, around six years ago, I bought a flat in Roehampton, right on the doorstep of the Park — as well as my first proper digital camera. I would go into the Park at weekends to practise, and this developed into an obsession. I would go pretty much every morning, especially during the autumn morning mists with all their colour and atmosphere. It was like a get-away, a dreamscape where I was always surprised at what I found. The beauty for me was that in the early mornings I was often the only person there.

The Park is such a diverse place for photography, from the beautiful Pen Ponds and the birds to the stunning misty wooded areas — so many subjects. First and foremost, I think I loved photographing the swans and the stags, especially in the autumn mists and fogs — magical

Alex Saberi

moments! As well as the wildlife, I have enjoyed taking photos of the stunning trees and to add a twist I took them at night, painting them in light from a torch or flashlight. Recently, I have been trying take photos of the rabbits. Still today, some six years on, I love going into the Park to try to find a different angle or subject. There is so much there and I never quite know what I will find from one day to the next.

My photos of the Park have won several awards and I continue to find it a great inspiration. I can't believe it is in London — what a great green space for a city to have!

Award-winning photographer Alex provided the cover photos for this year's spring and summer newsletters as well as for the new Guide to Richmond Park. His stunning "Park Life" collection, based on a year of dawn visits to the Park, has featured in national newspapers and a successful recent exhibition. His photos, including "Angel" (right) and "Fairy Tale" (above), can also be seen and purchased at www.alexسابeri.com.



The Friends conservation project is developing well into a capable, self-managed team with, typically, ten volunteers turning out for each Saturday morning session. Until we are fully trained and have more leaders, we are having to restrict our numbers to people with past experience of this type of work — unfortunate, as we receive one or two offers a week which have to be rejected.

Whilst most of the work is "rhoddy clearance", other possibilities include planting trees and clearing ditches. We look forward to receiving "bonfire training" before burning the rhoddy cuttings in the autumn.

The work continues to be very enjoyable and satisfying. It would be great to be able to run sessions for school children, but that is some time off, despite already getting enquiries!
Peter Burrows-Smith

Bird notes

The unusually warm dry spring saw a number of rare birds passing through the park including a Garganey, Honey Buzzard, Montagu's Harrier and an Ortolan Bunting — the first even being spotted by one of the groups on our spring bird walk.

Whilst there was a good turnout for our Dawn Chorus Walk in early May, the strong breeze meant that the birds were quieter than normal, the only exceptions being the Common Whitethroats which are always vocal early in the day. There has been

a suggestion that we move this walk to mid-April next year, starting a bit later (at 6am!) and walking through Sheen Common Wood before entering the Park at Bog Gate. The birds could be more vocal then, and the later start should be more "user-friendly".

Both pairs of swans on Pen Ponds have produced good broods of cygnets, but none have survived more than a few days; observers have seen predation by crows and even the male swan from the Lower Pond attacking the cygnets on the Upper Pond! The Adams Pond pair seem to be faring better with four cygnets surviving so far. We are hopeful for the Common Terns this year; at the time of writing, they are believed to be sitting on eggs on their raft. At least three Lesser Spotted Woodpecker nests have been located so far, with one on the main island in the middle of Lower Pen Ponds. Only one Cuckoo has been heard this year in the Park, a passage bird in Pen Ponds Plantation in early June.

Peter Burrows-Smith

The march of the moth

Many Friends have joined other volunteers and Royal Parks staff to search the Park for nests of the alien insect pest Oak Processionary Moth. The caterpillars defoliate Oak trees and carry toxic hairs which are a threat to human health. The volunteers are approaching the often challenging task with great enthusiasm and to date over 500 nests have been located across the Park. These will be removed by specialist operators by the optimum time of the middle of July. Episodes of heavy rainfall in early June washed numerous caterpillars out of the trees in Pembroke Lodge gardens, and areas were temporarily closed to the public while nest removal and a clean-up operation took place.

Gillian Jonusas, Park Arboriculturist

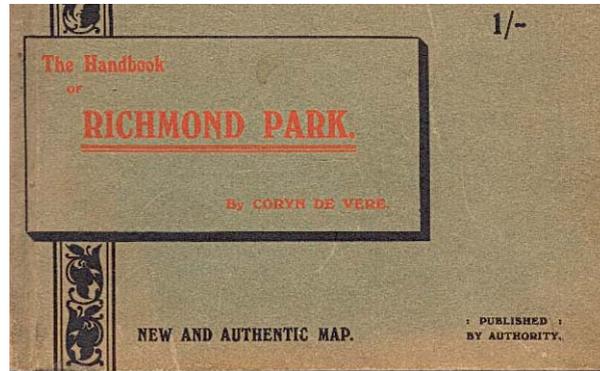
In days gone by...

With our new *Guide to Richmond Park* rapidly establishing itself as the definitive guide to the Park for the 21st century, it's interesting to learn what guidance was offered to Park visitors at the start of the 20th century in a little book published in 1909 that has come into my hands. Called simply *The Handbook of Richmond Park* and costing a shilling, it is by a Chiswick author Coryn de Vere and contains an attractive fold-out map hand drawn by de Vere and 34 of his own photographs.

In a preface, de Vere writes that "as far as my researches go there has been no guide book dealing exclusively with Richmond Park since that of A.H.W. in 1851". Filling this gap, de Vere touches on all those aspects of the Park which our own new guide book covers — and though the natural splendours that he commends happily endure ("spared for ever from the intrusion of suburban villas, tramways and motor omnibuses"), there are some interesting changes of detail.

On de Vere's map, for instance, at the top of the hill inside Kingston Gate, there is marked a "Cricket Ground" on the site later used for an army camp; the use of this ground, de Vere tells us, was granted to Kingston Corporation "and they have the regulation of it". The nearby pond that we now know as Gallows Pond is named "The Queen's Pond", while close to what is now Pen Ponds car park de Vere has pinpointed "Walpole's Oak, the largest in the Park".

Michael Davison



A footnote to the map warns: "No motor car or any other vehicle is allowed to proceed at a greater speed than ten miles an hour". How would today's motorists take to that, I wonder?

In de Vere's text we are transported back to a day when the gate lodges were occupied by gatekeepers, and offered tea and light refreshments to visitors; when Pen Ponds had two boathouses and in hard winters provided "the finest skating in London"; when peacocks stalked the then enclosed Spankers Hill Wood, and the "shady solitudes" of Isabella Plantation echoed to the sound of "linnets and nightingales sweetly trilling".

Those used to entering the Park through Ham Gate will recognise de Vere's description of this glen as "the Park's most picturesque spot, not merely pretty but forest-like, and solitary, with rugged oaks towering above the bracken".

In de Vere's day the Park had around 900 fallow deer and only 50 red deer, with six deer pens equipped with shelters and feeding racks "for the

private use of the deer... those necessary ornaments to the domains of our royalty and nobility". Visitors, the author suggests, may tempt fallow deer to approach by "gently throwing them a biscuit" — oh dear!

De Vere includes 17 pages of flora and fauna lists, interleaved with blank pages for recording one's own sightings. There is interesting material here for an expert to compare de Vere lists with today's tally.

He does get some things wrong. Curiously, he locates the "historical altercation" of 1755 between John Lewis and Martha Gray, resulting in the legal action that restored public access rights, as having occurred at "Richmond Hill Gate", rather than at Sheen Gate, where we now know it took place. He attributes the design of Richmond Gate to Capability Brown, a long-standing myth recently corrected by the Friends, as reported in the Autumn/ Winter 2010 newsletter.

At Poet's Corner, in Pembroke Lodge Gardens, de Vere recalls that near the memorial to James Thomson there once stood another board bearing "Lines written in Richmond Park" by Thomson himself. "It is to be hoped," says de Vere, "that the board with this fine description of the view may before long be replaced". Perhaps, a century on, it is time for the Friends to fulfil this hope, before the next edition of our guide book?

Life during wartime

In March, 1941, *The Times* reported that a "well-known golf club near London [has made] some temporary rules for play in war-time. They cover almost every possible contingency and were composed, as we should judge, not without a twinkle in the official eye..."

With thanks to Park Manager Simon Richards, who sent us the rules below, which he thought were probably from Sudbury Golf Club, on the edge of the Park.

RICHMOND GOLF CLUB

TEMPORARY RULES. 1940

1. Players are asked to collect Bomb and Shrapnel splinters to save these causing damage to the Mowing Machines.
2. In Competitions, during gunfire or while bombs are falling, players may take cover without penalty for ceasing play.
3. The positions of known delayed action bombs are marked by red flags at a reasonably, but not guaranteed, safe distance therefrom.
4. Shrapnel and/or bomb splinters on the Fairways, or in Bunkers within a club's length of a ball, may be moved without penalty, and no penalty shall be incurred if a ball is thereby caused to move accidentally.
5. A ball moved by enemy action may be replaced, or if lost or destroyed, a ball may be dropped not nearer the hole without penalty.
6. A ball lying in a crater may be lifted and dropped not nearer the hole, preserving the line to the hole, without penalty.
7. A player whose stroke is affected by the simultaneous explosion of a bomb may play another ball from the same place. Penalty one stroke.

Does anyone know...

anything about a unit of the Army Operational Research Group led by James Stanley Hey that had its radar station in the Park during and just after World War II? Astronomer and historian Professor Woodruff T. Sullivan, from the University of Washington, contacted our Chairman to ask about the location, as he'd like to visit it this summer. Please contact Ron Crompton if you have any relevant information.



Friends out and about

The Friends have been well represented at summer fairs in areas around the Park, with stalls at Richmond, Ham and Barnes fairs. Pictured above are Richard Gray (left), the FRP trustee who handles much of the PR and marketing for the Friends, Michael Davison (centre) and Peter Watson at Ham Fair on 11th June. Richard commended the volunteers who helped to staff the stalls, which had been hugely successful in signing up new members and selling copies of the Friends' new *Guide to Richmond Park*. At the two June fairs, volunteers signed up 41 new Friends, and membership is now over 1800.

The *Guide* is proving a great success. It has sold over 2,000 copies and is now stocked by eight branches of Waterstones, another five independent local bookshops, Stanfords in central London, Ham House and Barnes Wetlands, as well as the Visitor Centre and Pembroke Lodge. Waterstones in Richmond gave it a window display and for a while it was their best selling book. It has had full page reviews in the *Richmond and Twickenham Times* and *Surrey Comet* and many other briefer mentions. The Friends' publishing costs

have now been recovered, and future proceeds will all go to conservation projects in the Park. See page 14 if you would like to help with distribution.

Seasonal notes

Park notice boards provide useful seasonal notes and advice. In summer you will find the usual reminders to keep dogs under control (there have been a couple of recent dog attacks on deer), what to do if you find a very young deer hidden in the bracken (basically, leave it alone), and to check yourselves and your dogs for the ticks that can pass on Lyme disease. A leaflet on Lyme disease is available from Holly Lodge.

Isabella Plantation Access Project

Public comment on the project was invited early in July, and there will be further opportunities to find out more and to give your views on updated design ideas in September: an exhibition and consultation will take place from 12.00 to 4.00pm on Friday 9th at the disabled car park gate and on Saturday 10th at Broomfield Hill gate.

Walking the Wall

In April a group, led by John Collier, "Walked the Wall", and there will be another opportunity in October for anyone who'd like a brisk 8-mile walk in the Park (see Walks and Courses on page 15 for details and a photo of the April walk). It takes about three and a half hours, with brief stops at each gate for a bit of history. "You need to be reasonably fit — it's not a stroll, but it's not a yomp either", says John.

Pen Ponds spillway

Pen Ponds hold sufficient water to be classified as reservoirs, with the causeway between the ponds and the northern edge of the lower pond acting as dams holding back the water behind them. The level of these dams needs to

be maintained at the same height all along, but this summer civil engineers are creating a low spot which will prevent a breach in the dam and uncontrolled release of water should the ponds ever fill faster than the current overflow can handle.

Olympics road cycling event

A group of invited cyclists will be cycling the Olympics course, including the Park, on Sunday 14 August as a rehearsal for 2012. Friends plan to monitor the impact of the trial on the Park to use in discussions with LOCOG. See page 14 if you would like to help.

Cinema by Roehampton Gate

In late summer Nomad Cinema and The Royal Parks will be presenting three nights of open-air screenings of "classic" films on the field opposite Roehampton Gate. While understanding the need for the Park to raise funds (tickets cost £12.50 and we assume the Park will get a share), Friends are concerned at the effects on the Park, which up to now has been particularly peaceful and undisturbed at night.

Marathon runs across the Park

On Sunday May 15, the first Richmond Park marathon was held with 300 runners on a route from Sheen to Robin Hood Gate, then across Pen Ponds causeway, up to Sawyers Hill and back to Sheen Cross. Members of the Friends monitored it and sent their concerns to Park Management. These included: that there was insufficient warning of the event to other Park users; that the route used open grassland which is already badly eroded; that the Tamsin Trail and its bridges are not wide enough for races of this size; that there was inadequate stewarding where runners crossed roads and conflicted with cars and cyclists; that runners were paced by an

off-track cyclist who claimed to be unaware of Park regulations; and that race vehicles were parked illegally, holding up traffic.

Motors make Park history

A procession of unusual vehicles circled the Park on Sunday June 5th and attracted admiring crowds. They were participants in a rally celebrating the first race for motor vehicles ever held in Britain, which took place in 1897. The rally was organised by the de Dion Bouton Club, named after the engine which powered many of the earliest vehicles, and included tricycles dating from 1898, phaetons, tonneaus and vintage cars of the early 1900s. The Park was chosen for the venue because the 1897 race, starting like this year's in central London, had as its destination a Motor-Car Club at Sheen House (demolished in 1907) in East Sheen. Races took place on a 440-yard cement track in the grounds of the house, with some of the vehicles reaching 27 mph.

Saint John Ambulance in the Park

Richmond and Mortlake Saint John Ambulance have been on duty during many recent events in the Park, dealing with a range of casualties from broken bones to serious overheating. Anyone needing coverage for a public event in the Park (or elsewhere locally) can contact them via the answerphone on 020 8948 8852 or by email to operations@richmond.sja.org.uk. Enquiries are also welcome from Friends who'd like to join and get trained in first aid. They meet every Wednesday evening from 7.00 to 9.00pm in the Old Deer Park car park, Richmond.

With thanks to Andy Butler, Ron Crompton, Michael Davison, Richard Gray and Park Management for news items and photos.

Membership and Gift Aid

Gift Aid mandate forms are enclosed for those of you who have not already signed them as we would like to claim back even more tax to put towards projects in the Park.

Thank you very much to all of you who have kindly made donations along with your membership renewals. All donations are most welcome and will be put to good use.

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

Sheila Hamilton, Hon Membership Secretary

Queries about Friends?

See www.frp.org.uk, or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or max.lankester@frp.org.uk.

Friends monthly email

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly email please email cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk, including your postcode.

WANTED - VOLUNTEERS

to help monitor the effects of the Olympics road cycling test event on Sunday 14 August, particularly any damage caused by the race cavalcade of security, media and spectators. If you can spend 2 - 3 hours helping us, please contact peterburrows-smith1@virginmedia.com.

Help is also needed with handling orders for and delivery of our *Guide to Richmond Park*. It does not involve much time or hard selling to bookshops — if you could help, please contact ron.crompton@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: 0300 061 2200 Email: richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk Website: www.royalparks.gov.uk

Police non-emergency telephone number: 0300 123 1212

Trustees:

Chairman: Ron Crompton

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
16 July	<u>8.30pm</u>	WALK: Summer Evening . Meet at Sheen Gate car park.
6 Aug	10.00am	WALK: meet at Kingston Gate car park
3 Sept	10.00am	WALK: meet at Robin Hood Gate car park
1 Oct	10.00am	WALK; including “ Walk the Wall ” option. Meet at Sheen Gate.
8 Oct	10.00am	COURSE: Deer*
15 Oct	10.00am	WALK: Autumn Birds . Meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
5 Nov	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
19 Nov	10.00am	COURSE: Fungi*



Other events

Sunday 14 August	Olympics Road Cycling test event in the Park - normal traffic will be excluded from the roads.
15 -16 October	The Friends will be entertaining a visiting delegation from Les Amis de la Forêt de Fontainebleau.



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*