



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

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2012



Park ponds

The Park portrayed

The road race reviewed

Magical moments

Welcome

...to our autumn newsletter, full, as usual, of Park news, views, lovely pictures, and volunteering opportunities (see next column).

Marilyn Mason
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PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

We now have email addresses for over 65% of our members, who receive a monthly email containing:

- Latest news on the Park and the Friends;
- The Park Diary and Isabella Diary written by The Park Management;
- The Friends and Isabella Walks programme;
- Notice of events in the Park or publications about the Park.

Try it for a while and see what you think – you can always unsubscribe!

Please email Roy Berriman at royberriman@yahoo.co.uk with your name, postcode and email address.

Please note that we never give details of our members, including email addresses, to anyone else.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

After four years of being responsible for the day-to-day management of the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge, Rachel Hirschler has decided to move on to concentrate on the History Project. We are currently re-examining how the Centre is managed with the aim of reducing the load on any one individual. In future, there will be four roles:

- Brian Baker will continue to arrange the rota.
- Mary Davies, who is responsible for ordering the products we sell, will expand her role and see the goods right through to the Visitor Centre for sale. The remaining tasks will be split between two people, with one of them designated as lead volunteer for the Centre. We reckon that each post will require about half a day's work a week, split between home and the Visitor Centre. Both volunteers will need to be able to visit Holly Lodge (on a weekday between 9.00am and 4.00pm), as our bulk stock is maintained there.
- One volunteer will be responsible for information – all the leaflets that we supply free of charge, notices in the Centre etc.
- One person will be responsible for the volunteers, arranging for badges, car park passes etc, and for making contact with new volunteers.

If you are interested in learning more about these volunteering opportunities, please get in touch with Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623. Full training and support will be given.

Cover photos:

Front cover: "Catcher in the Rise" by Alex Saberi (see page 9)

Back cover: Thomson's Pond by Sarah Cuttle (see page 4 for more on the Park's ponds)

Pressures on the Park

I have written before about the increasing pressure that the Park is under from events of all kinds (see my article in summer 2011, which predicted how events might take over the Park by 2025, when it would be called the "Richmond Park Sports and Entertainment Arena"). In the last six months the pressure has escalated.

The Queen's visit and the Olympics road race (see page 6) were both massive events, supposedly one-offs but in reality setting precedents. In a letter to the Friends after the Queen's visit, The Royal Parks said that "the event showed that such activity is possible if it is carefully planned and suitable mitigations are employed." And London Mayor Boris Johnson recently announced that 2013 will see four new cycle events, two of which will go through Richmond Park and are expected to draw large crowds.

In smaller ways, too, events are expanding. May saw the second Richmond Park Marathon, with 350 runners. September saw the Duathlon ("the world's largest"), which now includes an ultra 110km, a relay event and an IronKid; this year's also had loud music and announcements. October saw the first Royal Parks ultra-marathon, with 700 runners. Every Saturday Park Run now has a 5km race with 200 – 300 runners. And so on...

Small (and not so small) charity events are growing rapidly. Three or four charity cycle rides or running races occur every weekend between May and September, some notified to Park Management, others not. Finally, there are the planned events at White Lodge, to which the Friends has objected.

These events have happened piecemeal over the last five years, many in the last two. Before then there were virtually no large events and few small ones. Before it gets much further, we need to stand back and ask what the cumulative impact is on the Park's peace and tranquillity, its wildlife and grassland. Which events have a serious impact and which are less damaging? Should we draw the line where it is now? Should more events be allowed – or fewer? Should the centre of the Park be treated differently from the periphery, or charities differently from commercial events, or those using the Tamsin Trail from those on grassland, or obesity-reducing events from others? We need a clear "cumulative impact policy" for different types of events in different areas. When the agreed limit is reached, a new event should only be possible if another drops out.

This is not an original idea. Richmond Council has used a cumulative impact policy since 2005. It limits the number of licensed premises in Richmond town centre in order to reduce public nuisance. A new alcohol licence will normally be refused unless the applicant can demonstrate that it will not increase the cumulative impact. The policy works pretty well and anti-social behaviour has reduced since 2005. There is no reason why a similar policy shouldn't work in Richmond Park. It is better than continuing as we are.

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Ponds galore

Jubilee, Ham, Martin's and Still are four of the 30 ponds and scrapes in Richmond Park. And all four are being restored or built with funds from the Friends' Ponds and Streams Programme.

Construction of Jubilee Pond was completed in July, in time for the Olympics. Summer is the normal time for pond construction because the water-courses are at their driest, but this was no normal summer. Water filled the new pond as it was dug, pumps were needed to keep water out of the foundations of a head-wall, and brick-laying had to be done under a tarpaulin roof. Two interesting items (*pictured below*) appeared in the mud – a 100-year-old earthenware bottle (probably for ginger beer), and a World War II rifle-launched grenade (probably discarded during the training of troops). The pond was sealed off until a bomb disposal expert arrived. The construction is now complete, with a sluice gate to maintain a water level to suit wildlife, and fencing around it to prevent "poaching" (invasion of the banks) by deer and dogs.

Planting of a few trees and native plants will take place this winter.



Ham Gate Pond and Ham Dip Pond are linked ponds near Ham Gate. There is also a small feeder pond above the road near Ham Cross. These ponds collect water from the area between Thatched House Lodge and Isabella Plantation and drain into the Sudbrook, which then runs outside the Park to the Thames. The ponds are infested with aquatic weeds: Australian Swamp Stonecrop (*Crassula Helmsii*), Floating Pennywort and Nuttall's Pondweed. They appeared in 2009 and have covered more of the ponds every summer. Ham Gate Pond also has very poor water quality and low biodiversity because of high nutrient levels and turbidity, heavy silting from rotten leaves and duck droppings, and trees overshadowing it. It has been due for restoration for many years

The restoration involves two stages – first draining the ponds and spraying them with a herbicide, and then de-silting, removing some tree cover, and marginal planting, including creation of

Ron Crompton

reed beds. The end result will be similar to Adam's Pond near Sheen Gate, which was restored in 2007. The first stage was done in September and the dry ponds look very sad now (*see my photo on the left*). The second stage will happen next summer/autumn, although some work may be undertaken this winter. The work will cost about £50,000 and is being jointly funded by a special grant from The Royal Parks and by the Ponds and Streams Programme. We expect to launch a public appeal over the winter, with the conservation charity Healthy Planet matching all public contributions.

Martin's Pond (*photo below by Andrew Wilson*) is located by the road from Robin Hood Gate to Pen Ponds car park. It collects water from the area between the road and Prince Charles Spinney and drains via a culvert to Beverley Brook near Robin Hood Gate. The plan is to de-culvert about 400 metres of this and open up the brook, creating a new ditch with an associated aquatic and marginal wildlife habitat. The marshy areas near Martin's Pond have great potential for Great Crested Newts, for which a new home has been



created by clearance at Dann's Pond, funded by Frog Life. The work will cost £10–15,000 and is being funded by the Richmond Park Charitable Trust, Healthy Planet, the Friends of Richmond Park and the Park Visitor Centre.

Isabella Plantation has three ponds: Still Pond (famous for its display of rhododendron and azaleas); Thomson's Pond (with its stepping stones and grassed area – see back cover); and Peg's Pond (at the bottom of the Plantation, with its many wildfowl). Restoration of all three ponds was included in The Royal Parks bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for improvements to the Plantation; the Friends contributed £6,000.

The restoration involves de-silting of all three ponds, repairing pond linings and edgings, enlarging Peg's Pond and creating areas of reed bed, and providing additional marginal planting. Streams throughout Isabella will also be improved, with bank alteration, pooling, control of invasive weeds and new planting. The restoration work will be the first part of the Plantation improvement work and will start this winter.

It was fun but...

The Olympic cycling road races in July drew unprecedented crowds along the route through the Park, with at least 50,000 people watching over the two days (some estimates were 100,000), enormous banners flying, police high-fiving and crowds cheering wildly, even though the spectacle lasted only a few minutes (or even seconds, as in the photo on the right). The sun shone on the men's race and the crowds were ten deep at the best viewpoints. The women's race on the following day saw torrential rain as the cyclists sped through on the return leg; inevitably the crowds were much smaller but the cheers seemed almost as loud. The atmosphere was wonderful, and the Park looked lovely on television, drawing favourable comments from journalists, who also reported that David Weir, who won four gold medals in the Paralympics, trained in the Park in his racing wheelchair. Spectators brought picnics and spread blankets on the grass and were well behaved: they kept outside the barriers, nobody climbed trees for a better view, there was little litter and the three special litter-picking crews were underemployed.

Much of this was thanks to the more than 70 Friends who welcomed visitors as they streamed through the gates, handing out 10,000 leaflets with information on the races and how visitors could minimise their impact on the Park. This was the only information available to spectators, and the volunteers were frequently thanked for it and for their help generally. At Ham Gate there was a long queue to enter until one of the volunteers insisted on the vehicle gates being opened. Other Friends were busy monitoring the Park's sensitive areas.



Over the previous year, The Park Management (helped by the Friends) had negotiated with LOCOG, the Olympics organisers, for measures to protect the Park from the crowds (the race itself was less of a problem). There were barriers around valuable acid grassland and veteran trees, temporary bike parks to encourage people to leave their bikes and not cycle across grassland, and 170 stewards on duty, supposedly trained to enforce Park regulations. The deer were carefully shepherded to areas well away from the race route, and dogs were required to be on leads.

However, there were significant problems with off-track cycling, particularly leaving the event, with many people ignoring the signs and the pleas of Friends volunteers and LOCOG stewards. The bike parks provided by LOCOG were poor; others provided by Park management were much better but had too few spaces.

Some deer were stressed by the event and some people ignored the "dogs on leads" rule – a potentially disastrous combination; there were at least two

incidents when dogs started to chase deer, but were caught in time. Finally, many stewards did not turn up on the first day and those that did were poorly trained and informed. Most were unaware of the key features of the Park, the need to protect it and the Park regulations.

In contrast, the Park management did a good job in sorting out problems on the day; one example was the speedy action taken to prevent the huge number of people entering via Cambrian Gate from trampling over the acid grassland nearby – the area was quickly taped off and visitors directed to a regular path.

A month after the Olympics, Boris Johnson announced that next August would see two new cycling events going through Richmond Park, one an elite race similar to the Olympics, which would come after the Tour de France with the same riders, the other a 100-



mile challenge expected to attract 20,000 riders. Both races are likely to attract large crowds. The Friends have written to the Mayor and organisers to insist that the same, or improved, measures be adopted for those two races as for the Olympics. These include: the same barriers around sensitive areas and control of the deer; better policing of "dogs on leads" or no dogs allowed in the Park; better control of off-track cycling (with widespread signage, stewarding and police presence); better bike parks; and much improved stewarding with more willingness to stop irresponsible behaviour by spectators. You can read a summary of our conclusions and recommendations for future events at www.frp.org.uk/news/212-olympics-cycling-road-races.

A Comment piece in a July issue of the *Evening Standard* echoed what many Friends feel: "...Royal Parks emphasises that this is 'an exceptional year': if you accept the need to hold Olympic events there, they were bound to cause disruption... Will the number of events creep up over time? For it comes down to money. ... Grounds maintenance for the eight Royal Parks costs £7.4 million. But public parks aren't there to make money... These spaces exist as a public service – and one of the cheapest to run at that. London's parks are one of its great glories, their lush greenery the best upside to the rain. They shouldn't need to pay their way like some shabby car park."

With thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith, Ron Crompton, Michael Davison and the Evening Standard. Photos by Alan Vincent (left) and Marilyn Mason (above centre).

DISCOVERERS

For families exploring Richmond Park



Our Discoverers programme has been active this year, with a variety of events attracting a growing number of families. After the pilot activity in March, a successful walk based on one of Susanna Ramsey's "Family Trails", we organised a Fathers' Day trail and picnic in the Isabella Plantation in July. Discoverers followed a set of clues around the Plantation, learning its secrets as they went. We intend to run this again and to make the trail leaflet available for independent use.

The most recent event, an evening Bat Walk led by Philip Briggs of the London Bat Group, took place in September and proved very popular. There were 18 adults and 16 children (*some pictured above right*), with a surprisingly high level of knowledge amongst the children; their enthusiasm was rewarded by a great turn-out of bats on a beautiful evening, with a full moon in a clear sky making it easy to see them. We observed Common and Soprano Pipistrelles, and had a sighting of the rarer Nathusius' Pipistrelle. Daubenton's bats put on an athletic display, swooping low over Adam's pond, picking insects off its surface. We also used electronic detectors to help distinguish between the different species. Like a number of other inhabitants of the natural world, bats are threatened, as well as being victims of ignorance and superstition. To see children so knowledgeable and interested in these remarkable creatures was a great pleasure and gives some hope for the future.



The Discoverers mailing list currently stands at 49 families and a growing number are Friends of Richmond Park. Up until now this has not been a requirement for taking part in activities, as our major aim was to build up support. Now that the project is becoming so popular we intend to give priority when necessary to families that are members. Discoverers activities are all free, and the modest £10 for household membership of the Friends represents excellent value.

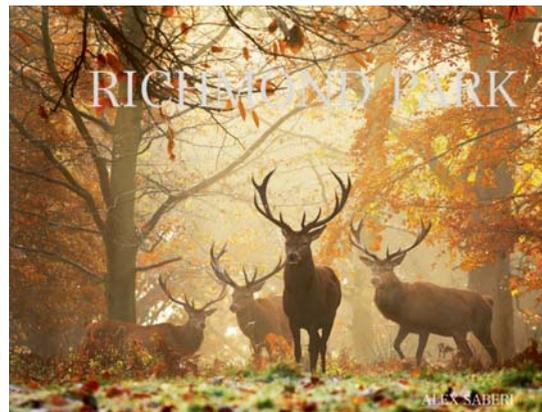
Discoverers has its own section of the Friends website and features on the Friends Facebook page. These help to publicise and drive the programme, and we welcome input from our participants. Future plans include a possible winter event before the end of the year and a schools-based project next spring. It is also looking likely that next summer we will collaborate with the Holly Lodge Centre on an exciting competition. You can find out more at <http://discoverers.frp.org.uk>.

Teresa Grafton

Updates

You will find regular news of Park events and issues, much more up-to-date than we can manage in this thrice-yearly newsletter, in our monthly e-bulletins (see page 2 to sign up) and on the internet. Visit our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/thefriendsofrichmondpark) for breaking news, comment and conversations about the Park. Although we started slowly, our "Friends" (now over 130) and "Likes" are growing, and you will find plenty of posts about the Park and its wildlife. And there's more on our well-stocked website at www.frp.org.uk.

Very special photos of a very special place – and a special offer to Friends



Richmond Park, by award-winning photographer Alex Saberi, is a recently published collection of photographs illustrating the rich diversity of Richmond Park throughout the year.

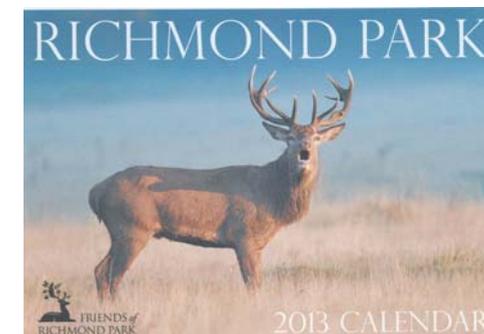
Alex has been photographing the Park for over seven years and his photos feature prominently in the *Guide to Richmond Park*, published last year by the Friends. They have also appeared in national magazines and newspapers, and occasionally in this newsletter – you may recognise the book's cover

photo. His new book captures beautifully the Park's unique blend of wildlife, plant life, and rolling landscapes, as well as some rare moments of wildlife action. A photo from the book features on our front cover.

The book, which would make a lovely Christmas present, is published by ACC Editions (£25.00). Visitors to www.accdistribution.com will receive 20% off, and ACC is offering Friends of Richmond Park an additional 10% off – just enter the voucher code RP1 at the checkout to claim your extra discount. If you would prefer to order by phone, please call 01394 389977, quoting the voucher code.

More Christmas ideas

The Friends full-colour 2013 calendar, (*pictured below*) with over 60 images of Richmond Park, costs £5.99 (cash only) and is available at the Visitor Centre (open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 10.00am to 3.00pm, and on Mondays to Thursdays from 11.00am to 2.00pm, depending on volunteer availability) and at Holly Lodge reception (on Mondays to Fridays between 9.00am and 4.00pm). The Visitor Centre also sell Christmas cards for £1 each or 6 for £5.00. Photographs for both the cards and calendar have been kindly donated, and all profits from sales will go to help conservation projects in the Park.



Policing news

The new fines for off-track cycling, dog fouling and littering began on July 1, and the police started to fine people from mid-August; in the first month they fined 16 cyclists, mostly at Pen Ponds. The police have also secured the conviction of a cyclist who was doing 40 mph down Broomfield Hill, the first time they have successfully prosecuted a speeding cyclist. The fine was £135. They also successfully prosecuted a person for having a dog off lead and worrying wildfowl; the fine was £150 with another £150 in costs.

A new speed table has been installed near Kingston Gate, paid for through the commitment of LOCOG (the Olympics organiser) to restore the Park to its pre-Olympics state; the gates at Richmond, Kingston and Roehampton and the cobbles at the Richmond Gate roundabout have been reinstated.

Oak Processionary Moth

This year, using a surveying team of 40 volunteers and seven Royal Parks staff and contractors, over 4,200 Oak Processionary Moth nests were located in the Park in 1,500 trees, a 100% increase on 2011. The moth has spread into the south-eastern section of the Park, as well as increasing in the Isabella Plantation and the old Camp Ground. Every Oak tree on the Olympic road race route was infested. All these nests were successfully removed this summer by specialist teams clad in protective clothing, using cherry-pickers to access the infested trees. The dedicated work of the volunteer surveyors, most of whom were Friends, was vital in the programme to control this invasive pest. Park Arboriculturist Gillian Jonusas said, "The sheer determination and hard work of the volunteers, often in very poor weather conditions, was invaluable. The high

level of control we have achieved with this pest couldn't have been done without their help." There are signs of defoliation where there have been significant infestations, and numbers have also increased in the S W London buffer zone delineated by the Forestry Commission, but there is also evidence of predation by Great Tits and Green Woodpeckers – one bit of good news.

Butterflies

Another wet July meant a poor summer for the Park's butterflies, affecting Skippers in particular. But there was a large late hatch of Small Coppers and Small Heaths, the latter being particularly encouraging as they have been declining in numbers.

Found in the park

Member Caroline Silver Lewis found a Chinese Mitten Crab in the Park in September (*her photo below*). This invasive pest is spreading through UK waters, where it damages banks and habitats. If you find one, please take it to Holly Lodge or dispose of it outside the Park. Or you could look up a recipe – they are considered a delicacy by the Chinese. You can read more about Mitten Crabs and how to report sightings on the Natural History Museum website.



With thanks to Ron Crompton, Sheila Hamilton and Gillian Jonusas (Arboriculturist, The Royal Parks) for news items.

Magical moments

...though not exactly tranquil!

Saturday 8 September was a fine, sunny day and at noon I was sitting on a log in the wooded area beside Pen Ponds car park talking to a fellow walker when two wonderful wildlife incidents occurred. We had just commented on how peaceful it was when we were startled by a loud roar behind us. A large stag was strolling slowly through the wood just a few yards behind our log, but what had caused him to bellow like that? There were no hinds around, but was he already practising for the rut? He paid no attention to us and just strolled on, a magnificent sight, and so close.

As we watched him walk on, we became aware of a large flock of Jackdaws outside the wood mobbing another bird low down just above the bracken. The confusion came closer and we soon identified the victim as a Barn Owl. The poor bird was then chased round and round, through the wood and over Pen Ponds car park, until it eventually managed to shake off its pursuers. At times it was so close that we did not need binoculars, a truly amazing sight! The Barn Owl is a nocturnal bird, only occasionally seen at dusk when feeding, but this one must have been disturbed at its daytime roost. It was a magical few minutes and a reminder of why we need to preserve the rich ecology of the park.

Twitchers' treat

It was early evening on Friday 6th July, and I had been watching Andy Murray's semi-final match against Tsonga at Wimbledon on TV for two hours, totally enthralled by the see-saw action in the

Peter Burrows-Smith

final set. I was reluctantly dragging myself away to get ready for an evening out when my mobile rang and I heard those immortal words for anyone interested in birds: "Have you seen it?" A Hoopoe had been seen up at Holly Lodge. I thanked the caller, and reluctantly went back to getting ready for the evening. Next came a text: "Hoopoe at Holly Lodge!" – the bush radio was working well. In the few minutes before we left for dinner I called all my bird-watching contacts and I think most of them managed to go and see it. I happened to pass Holly Lodge early the following morning and there were five twitchers out already, but this striking and distinctive European bird had moved on overnight.



The Hoopoe (*pictured above*) is usually seen only in southern Europe, and this rare vagrant visitor to the UK was last seen the Park in 1996.

Breeding birds

It has been a good year, with both Common Tern and Hobby breeding successfully, and Stonechat and Spotted Flycatcher back as breeding birds after a few years' absence. We hope that some of the 14 pairs of Skylarks observed in the Park this summer were successful parents too.

A queen's "pleasant wilderness"

Sybil Jack



the topography to fit the demands of romantic scenery. He describes passing through winding labyrinths and gloomy groves to a secluded spot where "tall spreading elms with friendly oaks engage, oaks whose dead tops confess their reverent age". Going ever downwards he comes to the vale's dark bottom and an ancient cave: "covered with ivy and moss, it seemed a pleasant wilderness". It was in this spot, the poet claims, that the queen exercised her wisdom and prudence as Regent, and also communed with Nature and the laws of God.

This poet of 1732 was not alone in celebrating Caroline's retreat into sylvan solitude. Scholars of Eton and Westminster also rushed into Latin verse to praise Caroline's removal to a rude and lonely hut where she could read and pray or meditate on matters pertaining to the public good. As companions upon the sacred ground, among mossy swards and hanging woods, the poets gave their Queen wood nymphs and river nymphs, as portrayed in the 1735 portrait of Queen Caroline by Jacopo Amigoni (*above left*).

Whether the Queen was really seeking the semblance of poverty and austerity in her idyllic retreat, as the poets suggest, or was merely anxious to shed the pressures of a crowded court it is hard today to judge. We do know, however, that White Lodge was a cherished spot for Caroline. To journey to the lodge from the royal home at Richmond Lodge on the riverside she created the grand avenue that we now know as the Queen's Ride, and entered and left the Park by a specially built Queen's Gate, now Bog Gate. For about 15 years The Hearsom

A time when a house in Richmond Park was the centre of royal authority in Britain is recalled by little-known verses which I discovered recently while researching in the British Library. The time was the 1730s, when Queen Caroline was acting as Regent of Britain while her husband George II was on the Continent ruling Hanover and engaging in diplomatic negotiations.

Caroline, according to the anonymous poet, had retreated to a dwelling in Richmond Park (presumably White Lodge, built by George I as a hunting lodge), to consider matters of state. If the poet actually visited Caroline in her retreat, he took some liberties with

A painting comes home

Daniel Hearsom

Collection has been acquiring historic images of the Park with much success in terms of early 20th century postcards, 19th century prints, "magic lantern" slides, photographs and digital copies of paintings. But original oil paintings have proven few and elusive. There was a tantalising lead about five years ago, when a biscuit tin was acquired from Australia, with on the lid a copy of a lovely oil painting of "Penn Ponds in Richmond Park", the original of which was held in the National Museum of Wales. But discussions with them and other experts revealed that the painting was in fact painted in Windsor Great Park. Other oil paintings have been tracked down but none could be acquired for the Park.

So it was wonderful to hear from a source in the art world that an oil painting of a scene in the Park by 19th century landscape artist William Frederick Witherington was coming up for sale by auction in New Hampshire, USA, on August 5. Arrangements were made to bid by telephone and at 6.20pm on the day the long awaited telephone call came from the delightful Heidi of Northeast Auctions. In a flurry of bidding against "someone in the room" that seemed like an eternity but was probably more like a minute the painting was secured. At this, Heidi could be heard shouting to the auction room, in words reminiscent of the film "ET": "It's



going home everyone, it's going home to Richmond Park in England", followed by a round of applause.

The painting will be securely stored at Pembroke Lodge where all are welcome to see it by prior arrangement. The hope is that it will go on permanent public display in a new building adjacent to the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge, subject to the necessary consents. If anyone would like to see the painting or they know of any more such paintings please contact me via daniel@pl.org.uk.

A possible location for the painting could be close to Killcat Corner, facing towards Roehampton, with the building shown to the left of the spire being Manresa House and the church spire a predecessor of the current Holy Trinity, Roehampton, which was built only in 1898, long after the painter died in 1865.

Gift Aid, Membership and Subscriptions

Membership of the Friends is comfortably over 2000, with about 50% individual members and 50% households. The vast majority of members have now signed up for Gift Aid, and we receive over £2,500 a year in Gift Aid. About 250 members also give donations when they take out or renew their membership and we receive over £1,500 a year that way. Gift Aid and additional donations make up 40% of our membership income, and we are very grateful to all of you who have completed Gift Aid forms or made donations.

Each year a few more of you convert to paying by Standing Order, and this is another way in which you can help us: it is easier to administer, it is cheaper as no postage is involved once the mandate is set up, and there is no risk of fraud or loss. It is entirely under your control, as the charity has no power to alter a mandate.

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

*Sheila Hamilton,
Hon. Membership Secretary*

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@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.royalparcs.gov.uk

Queries about Friends?

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: 101**Trustees:**

Chairman: Ron Crompton

Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith (Conservation & Ecology; Walks), Sheila Hamilton (Hon. Membership Secretary)

Other Trustees: Nick Coleman (Website; Events), Teresa Grafton (Education), Richard Gray (Marketing), P J Greeves (Events), Rachel Hirschler (History Project), Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), David McLaughlin (Hon. Treasurer), Mary Pollard (Publicity; Social Media)

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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 020 8549 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 |
|---------|---------|---|
| 3 Nov | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park. |
| 17 Nov | 10.00am | COURSE*: Fungi (Janet Bostock and Elisabeth Cheesman) |
| 1 Dec | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Kingston Gate car park. |
| 26 Dec | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park |
| 5 Jan | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park. |
| 19 Jan | 10.00am | COURSE*: Introduction to Bird-watching (Peter Burrows-Smith) |
| 2 Feb | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park |
| 16 Feb | 10.00am | COURSE*: Birds of Richmond Park (Peter Burrows-Smith) |
| 2 Mar | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Robin Hood Gate car park |
| 16 Mar | 10.00am | COURSE*: Spring Birds and Bird Song (Peter Burrows-Smith) |
| 6 April | 10.00am | WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park |

For other events coming up –

please see our website (www.frp.org.uk) or sign up for the Friends monthly email (see page 2).



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*