



FRIENDS *of*
RICHMOND PARK

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

Newsletter autumn 2018



Friends' Talks and Talks with Walks

Wildlife and Conservation Volunteer Groups

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Russell-Cooke Solicitors is a Putney-based top 100 law firm, working for a mix of clients, which has sponsored the Friends of Richmond Park for over 4 years.

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Christmas presents and cards at the Visitor Centre

Richmond Park
National Nature Reserve
2019 Calendar



Support conservation projects in the Park by buying beautiful presents and cards from the Visitor Information Centre by Pembroke Lodge.

Ideas for presents include our stunning 2019 calendar (£8) with 57 beautiful photos; the DVD (£5) of our award-winning film Richmond Park National Nature Reserve, presented by David Attenborough;



locally made glass Park Christmas decorations, and very popular woven deer in 4 sizes: 15, 30, 45 and 55 inches high, (£10 – 55). The two large sizes have very limited availability, so come quickly!

Christmas cards are 80p each or a pack of 5 different cards is £3.50. **And we now take credit or debit cards** as well as cash.

Front cover: *Cornus alba* with red admiral butterfly by Eric Baldauf.

Walks and talks expanded!

by Ron Crompton and Xanthi Giallousi

The Friends first started providing guided public walks in Richmond Park in 1985 and they are still an important part of the public face of the Friends. We now have a very successful programme of general and topic-specific walks, organised by Ian McKenzie which take place on the first Saturday of each month and regularly attract 30-40 people. There are also informal bird watching walks every Friday morning, led by Peter Burrows-Smith, and separate from the Friends, which attract similar numbers.

We also run 'courses', which consist of a 30-45 minute talk followed by a walk. There are 6-8 of these a year, mainly in the spring and autumn. Those on birds, deer and fungi are particularly popular. Courses are open only to members of the Friends.

We have now expanded what we offer by introducing stand-alone talks (without a following walk). This enables us to have them in winter and to cover a broader range of topics. Some of the talks will be members-only and some open to the public. We are also dropping the term 'course' (since it is something of a misnomer) and calling them 'talks' and 'talks with walks'.

So far this year we have had talks on the Buildings of Richmond Park, History and Stories of the Park, Ant Hills, an interview with John Bartram (the recently retired Park Wildlife Officer) and, coming in 2019, 'More Stories' and 'Richmond Park During the Wars'. See pages 14 and 15 for the programme until April. We hope you enjoy them!

New conservation volunteer group

A new sub-group of the Friends' practical conservation volunteers has been set up to work on smaller projects and ad-hoc tasks. It started with removing Himalayan balsam and litter from Beverley Brook and has then helped the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) set up cameras for a nocturnal mammal survey (see below). Led by Stephen Russell, the group extends the range of volunteering opportunities the Friends provide and what we can offer TRP and other organisations in the Park.

Dung beetle survey

Nine species of dung beetle have been recorded in Richmond Park. TRP have started a survey to see how widespread they are and to compare their numbers in different environments such as woodland and grassland and where deer and cattle graze. The survey will last throughout 2019 and those of you with a keen interest in dung beetles should keep an eye on The Royal Parks website for a related Citizen Science project that you can get involved in.

Adopt an Area One Year On by Steve Sandham



It's a little over a year ago that Adopt an Area was set up to tackle the problem of litter in the Park. The scheme divides the Park into 29 areas and each area is 'adopted' by Friends' volunteers who work individually, in pairs or family groups. They are provided with litter-picking sticks, gloves, litter sacks and a green volunteer vest (watch out for them when you next visit), and they regularly pick up discarded litter in their adopted area.

Thanks to the team, Adopt an Area has been a roaring success judging by the many comments received about how clean and tidy the Park is looking, and it's going from strength to strength,

currently attracting 60 volunteers.

Not only are all the 29 areas adopted, but there have been so many people wanting to get involved that there are now members who are 'roaming' litter pickers who assist in the areas and provide cover during holiday periods. We are delighted that there is so much support – the more the merrier!

Adopt an Area operates in partnership with the Royal Parks' full-time litter contractors, together doing a fantastic job keeping our National Nature Reserve as we would like to find it.

Richmond Park Visitor Centre – update

Detailed planning permission has been granted and the proposal for a new visitor centre has the support of The Crown Estate, The Royal Parks and the Friends of Richmond Park, together with many other local amenity groups.

The new centre will contain an archive of the Park's history and its improved facilities will enable our volunteers to give visitors more detailed information about biodiversity and sustainability.

The next steps are detailed designs and fundraising. If you would like to help this project with administration, secretarial or fundraising support then please contact Daniel Hearsum via daniel@pl.org.uk



Top photo: Volunteer Caroline, wearing the Friends' volunteer vest, by Steve Sandham

The long, hot, dry summer by Nigel Jackman

What a summer! It sizzled, baked and boiled, but mercifully our tinder dry Park never combusted. Preceded by a prolonged cold winter and a generally mild, wet spring, punctuated by the 'Beast from the East', there were no early predictions for the sunny, hot and dry conditions of June and July when temperatures regularly soared into the high twenties and low thirties.



Looking back, the Park benefited in the early weeks from sustained sunshine and warmth, everything growing strongly and healthily. Later, broad swathes of golden yellow grasses were daubed across much of the landscape, broken only by great splashes of early ripening bracken and strands of green woodland.

It is still too early to tell what, if any, long-term impact the hot summer has had on tree health. Some shallow-rooted trees such as beech and birch, suffered significant browning and early leaf fall. A few trees already in very poor health deteriorated further and are unlikely to recover. Oak seems to have coped reasonably well and vigorous lammas growth (the second flush of growth which usually

appears in mid/late summer) was noted earlier than usual on many of them.

The Park's contractors and the gardeners in Isabella Plantation and Pembroke Lodge gardens did an excellent job keeping up with the increased demand for watering, successfully keeping many vulnerable plants alive.

Many of the Park's smaller ponds dried up or shrank, limiting drinking water for mammals and birds, and impacting on water-dependent invertebrates and dragonflies, but banded demoiselles thrived on Beverley Brook. However, at the end of July, hundreds of dead fish were seen here, the result of a storm and heavy rain causing low dissolved oxygen levels, exacerbated by pollution from road run-off and sewage and a rapid change in water temperature. The following month,

pumps were introduced at the Pen Ponds to oxygenate the water for wildlife and to combat algae.

The red and fallow deer seemed to cope well despite poorer foraging. Badgers probably struggled more with worms not coming to the surface in the dry conditions.

Some butterfly species flew and finished early but others fared well. Flies, bees, grasshoppers, crickets and other insects were plentiful, too. As the hot, dry weather continued however, concerns surfaced that essential nectaring and larval food plants may have dried and burnt out. 2019 may tell a clearer story of the impact.

Photo by Nigel Jackman

Beverley Brook restoration increases wildlife

We are delighted to report that, following the restoration work, recent surveys have shown significant improvements in the wildlife of Beverley Brook. The Friends contributed £16,000 to these works, with a similar figure raised by the public appeal we organised.



Students of the University of Roehampton, Department of Life Sciences, under the direction of Dr Daniel Perkins, conducted the research before and after the restoration works. Dr Perkins says: *"We find a significant increase in the numbers of riverfly in the restored reaches – three times higher than in reaches without restoration."*

Another survey for the South East Rivers Trust showed similar improvements in plant species. It concluded: *"The dramatic increases in plant species... seen in the restored sections are not only due to planting as only about half the new species were planted. The rest have been acquired naturally as the improved bank structure has offered better opportunities for colonisation."*

The thriving macrophytes (aquatic plants), riverfly and larvae led to increases in the number of fish – although the survey was before the hot summer led to the death of hundreds of fish (see page 5).

Jan Wilczur of Richmond Park Bird Group has observed a growing number and variety of bird species on the restored sections compared with the unrestored parts of the Brook. He also noted increases in butterflies and other flying insects in the restored area compared with other sections.

FRP funds more wildlife improvements for Beverley Brook

Following these wildlife improvements, further restoration works are being carried out and will be completed in spring 2019. The reinforced concrete banks and a retaining wall (headwall) where Pen Ponds stream meets Beverley Brook are both no longer necessary and will be removed. The stream bed will be dug deeper to improve the water flow and a 'backwater' (a small, shallow pond), will be constructed, providing a haven for fry (young fish) and macrophytes.

The area will then be restored to a natural state and the result will be a greater variety of habitats and enhanced ecology of the Brook. This will include aiding upstream eel migration and amphibian breeding. FRP is contributing a third of the cost of £32,000, using the funds generously donated by Thames Water last year.

Photo: Beverley Brook after restoration by Richard Gray

Rare birds seen in the Park

For the first time a Great White Egret has been seen in Richmond Park. It was spotted on a regular Friday Friends' bird walk in early September as it flew towards, and then settled on, a treetop on the Upper Pen Pond island. Nigel Jackman and Paula Redmond took the wonderful photos seen here and on the back cover.



Nigel says: *"This graceful white bird, with yellow bill and black legs, is the same size (up to one metre tall) as a grey heron. The only previous record is of one seen flying over the Park in 2012. Only a decade or so ago the Great White Egret was not even mentioned in books on British birds; now it is a rare, but increasing migrant"*.

Jan Wilczur from the Park's Bird Group recorded another long-awaited first for the Park – a Cetti's Warbler, just 13.5 cm long and very difficult to spot. Jan's other significant sightings include:

- ◇ Whinchat: 11 on one day. The Park may be the most important staging area for this red-listed species in Greater London.
- ◇ Redstart: up to three of this scarce migrant.
- ◇ Spotted Flycatcher: at least three of another scarce migrant.
- ◇ Grasshopper Warbler: two sightings of this very scarce and hard-to-see species.
- ◇ Green Sandpiper: again, rare in the Park.
- ◇ Two pairs of Buzzard nested, one of which bred successfully

Jan also spends a lot of time observing Skylarks and believes their breeding territories have declined since last year, which may be due to a major running event held in the spring.

Richmond Park is sixth largest in Britain

Ordnance Survey recently published a study of the 100 largest parks in Britain (excluding National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The largest is Windsor Great Park at 28.5 sq km, followed by Cannock Chase, Rutland Water, Whinlatter Forest Park in Cumbria, Holkham Park in Norfolk and then Richmond Park, which is 9.5 sq km. However, Richmond Park is by far the largest in London, with Hainault Forest 3.6 sq km (26th in the list), followed by Bushy (32nd), Hampstead Heath (39th) and Wimbledon Common (49th). See www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/about/news/2018/100-biggest-parks-britain.html

Photo: Great White Egret by Paula Redmond

Lights, camera, deer... action!

By Richard Gray

Close your eyes and picture a 19th century gypsy encampment, or a vintage Rolls-Royce driven by a violent gangster, or Henry VIII hunting with his courtiers, or a runaway steam train!

Then imagine a star-studded cast – Richard Burton, Julie Walters, Mick Jagger, Julie Christie, James Fox, Rob Brydon, Genevieve Bujold, Jude Law, Jennifer Saunders, Robert Downey Jnr, Meryl Streep and David Attenborough.

But the star of this fantasy film is Richmond Park, a favourite location for the film industry for nearly 70 years. The Park's photogenic beauty and its proximity to central London and to studios at Ealing, Shepperton, Pinewood and Twickenham mean it is an ideal location.

The Titfield Thunderbolt (1953) was an Ealing Studios comedy, starring Stanley Holloway and John Gregson. Although mostly filmed around Somerset and Dorset, it's understood that two scenes were filmed in Richmond Park: a crash on Sawyer's Hill between a bus and a police van and... a runaway train!

Jump forward 65 years to new British comedy *Patrick* co-starring Beattie Edmondson and Ed Skrein (above photo ©Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures UK), with Jennifer Saunders, Adrian Scarborough and Cheri Lunghi. *Patrick* is set almost entirely around Richmond with the Park featuring prominently. The story was inspired by a local dog-walker.

Richmond Park has long been associated with historical dramas; the most notable was *Anne of the Thousand Days*, starring Richard Burton and Genevieve Bujold as Anne Boleyn (both actors were Oscar nominated in 1970). Look out for Richmond Park as Henry and his courtiers engage in hunting expeditions.

Right middle photo: Police van and coach collide on Sawyer's Hill in *The Titfield Thunderbolt*. Courtesy Studiocanal DVD.



Two years earlier, one of the Borough's most notable residents, Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, made his acting debut in *Performance* playing a reclusive, eccentric rock star. James Fox also stars as an East End gangster seen driving a Rolls-Royce through the Park. A critical flop on release, the film is now recognised as a gritty crime classic.

Merchant-Ivory's biggest hit, *Heat and Dust* (Julie Christie, Greta Scacchi, Shashi Kapoor, Julian Glover) improbably used the Park in 1983 to recreate a dust storm although after this summer perhaps it's not so surprising.

In 2014, Meryl Streep starred with James Corden and Emily Blunt in the fantasy-musical *Into the Woods* using the Park for several scenes, and the Royal Ballet School was seen in *Billy Elliot* (Julie Walters, Jamie Bell).



The most commercially successful film with Park involvement is *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* (2011). Starring Robert Downey Jnr in the title role with Jude Law as Doctor Watson, this fun romp used an area near Pond Plantation to recreate a gypsy encampment where our heroes enjoy a hedgehog goulash...(not hedgehogs from the Park, we hasten to add!)



Apart from movies the Park has featured in TV shows such as *Marion and Geoff* (with local Rob Brydon), *Silent Witness* (2012), *New Tricks* (2013) and recent smash hit *The Crown*. News and documentary programmes have also been filmed there, including *Springwatch* and *Blue Peter*.

Last, but by no means least, our own *Richmond Park National Nature Reserve* not only became a double award winner but also featured everyone's favourite TV legend: Sir David Attenborough.

Top photo: *Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows* with Robert Downey Jnr as Sherlock and Jude Law (with top hat) as Watson, at the gypsy encampment. Courtesy of Warner Home Entertainment DVD.

Above photo: Richmond Park National Nature Reserve set-up for the stag beetle filming sequence.

The Apprentice – You're Hired!

By Jamie Gould

My name is Jamie and I am a Royal Parks apprentice. At the age of 16 I knew I didn't want to go to university and build up a large debt and I wanted to pursue a career working outside with nature. I had always visited the Park and so it was perfect for me to work there as an apprentice, earning money whilst learning.



I am currently in the last year of my four year apprenticeship. Half way through my apprenticeship I completed my horticultural diploma and now I am finishing off my advanced diploma in environmental conservation which I am really enjoying. I go to college in Regents Park every week to learn horticulture for my RHS exams.

During my apprenticeship I have learned a large amount about the Park from all the amazing staff that work there, and I have twice taught in the primary school I used to go to. I used my own presentations for 180 6-9 year olds who really

enjoyed handling items such as deer antlers, skulls and deadwood. They made me a thankyou booklet, each child creating a thankyou letter. I am also designing an area of the school for a dipping pond to teach them about biodiversity and wildlife.

My first year of the apprenticeship was at Pembroke Lodge gardens learning the basics of horticulture, maintaining the gardens and planting seasonal bedding. I enjoyed the work, but formal gardening was not one of my strengths. However, I learnt so much from the great people there. I have attended apprentice master classes at Kew Gardens, Wisley, Hampton Court and others.

I spent two years working at the Isabella plantation and gave guided tours covering the plantation's history and plants. I was able to see the seasons change twice which is amazing to witness, especially when the azaleas and rhododendrons bloomed, and I was thrilled to receive the Apprentice of the Year award from the Royal Parks Guild during my time there.

I am spending my last year on the estates, managing the Park in general, including the Park gate gardens and lodges. After my apprenticeship I want to stay on with the Park, then continue with education for one more year, possibly doing an advanced ecological summer course to broaden my knowledge and experience in different sectors.

Photo by Vivienne Press

Editor's note: Jamie also takes excellent photos – five were selected for the 2019 Richmond Park calendar, including the main image for August.

A Discoverers Family's Butterfly Summer

By Sarah Travers

When we signed up as Park butterfly recorders, I had no real idea what it might involve. My eight year old son Ollie did – he was going to see a Purple Emperor, he proudly announced to Teresa Grafton and the Discoverers team when they met us at Roehampton Gate on a beautiful evening in early May. We were given an identification chart, and a form to record our sightings and were all set for our butterfly adventure!

The hottest summer since 1976 was perfect butterfly weather. On one walk we found ourselves in a sea of Skippers – small, moth-like butterflies – and then an even greater profusion of Meadow Browns. We struggled to count them all, as they fluttered amongst grass and ragwort. Above, in the oak trees, tantalising dark silhouettes could have been Ringlets, or possibly Purple Hairstreaks. As the heat of the summer ebbed, Small Heaths took over from Meadow Browns, accompanied by various 'Whites' and Speckled Woods.



Although Ollie has yet to see a Purple Emperor, we've seen and counted over 500 butterflies, and learned so much about how, like flowers, they change with the season. We have followed deer with their young, spotted a sparrowhawk, a short-tailed vole, dragonflies and damselflies. We have learned so much more about Richmond Park and its amazing wildlife than if we had not been asked to stop, stare – and count. We will definitely be back next year.

Open Day for all seasons!

At 11 am on Sunday, 23 Sept, it was a chilly 8°C, rain poured down...and it was the Richmond Park Open Day! Thankfully, by 1 pm the rain eased, the sun broke through and the trickle of plucky morning visitors gave way to a steady flow.

The Open Day provided entertainment and fun for children and adults. There was horse-shoeing of beautiful shires; Mission Invertebrate story-telling; the Victorian pharmacy and laundry brought history to life; hazel hurdle fence-making and charcoal burning were demonstrated; deer management was explained and wildlife groups showed the rich range of nature in the Park.

Nearly 50 Friends' volunteers welcomed visitors at the entrance, staffed stalls, provided information, sold Park gifts, showed the Friends film and helped with refreshments. Many visitors remarked what a wonderful time they had and there was a lovely atmosphere. A big thank you to all who helped.

Photo: Purple Emperor by Nigel Jackman

The value of urban trees

Recent research by University College London in Camden has shown that urban trees are as valuable as tropical rainforest trees in storing carbon and mitigating climate change. Areas such as Hampstead Heath (and presumably Richmond Park) store up to 178 tonnes of carbon per hectare, in comparison to 190 tonnes of carbon per hectare for tropical rainforests. The report says: *"Urban trees provide many ecosystem services essential for making cities liveable ... including shade, flood mitigation, filtering air pollution and habitat for birds, mammals and other plants"*.

Native tree species also host more wildlife compared with exotic species. Indigenous oaks harbour 284 insect species in the UK. Birch supports 266. But horse chestnut, introduced from the Balkans, hosts only four. The London plane tree, which is a hybrid between two exotic species, supports just one and Rhododendron Ponticum, introduced from southern Europe or the near east, supports a grand total of zero insect species!

Richmond Park's 100,000 trees are primarily native species. The main exception is horse and sweet chestnut, planted as food for the deer. In the last five years all the Rhododendron ponticum has steadily been removed from the Park, in part by the Friends' conservation volunteers, and the area is now being re-planted with largely native species.



Simon Richards returns

On 1 October, Simon Richards resumed his role as Manager of Richmond Park. He has been The Royal Park's acting Director of Parks for the last 18 months following the resignation of Colin Buttery. TRP have now recruited a new Director of Parks, Tom Jarvis, who has moved from a similar position at Windsor Great Park, which also has deer. Before this Tom was the manager of another Royal Park – Kensington Gardens. We welcome Simon back to his old job and Tom to his new one.

Charlotte Williams, who was standing in as one of the Assistant Managers in Simon's absence, has left TRP. Charlotte was well known to many members of the Friends who worked with her on conservation projects and volunteering and valued her enthusiasm and passion for the Park. We are very sorry to see her go and wish her the best for the future.

Speed limits

One of our members came across a Barnes and Mortlake History Society newsletter piece reporting on the records of Mortlake Police Court in the early 1900s. They say that in the early days of cars Richmond Park had a 10 mph speed limit and a youth was fined one pound for 'riding a bicycle at a greater rate than 8 mph'. Those were the days!

Unusual sightings!

You may spot them in the Park – some with their eyes fixed on the ground, others peering with binoculars at a tiny dot in the sky. Some may be on hands and knees around old logs, others dancing erratically in pursuit of a winged insect. Some of them only come out in daylight but you may see others at dawn or dusk.

Fear not... they are members of The Richmond Park Wildlife Group (RPWG). This was formed in the early 1990s by the Park Superintendent, Mike Fitt, to help manage the Park's wildlife using expert amateur knowledge.

Specialist sub-groups were set up to record aspects of wildlife, including birds, butterflies, beetles and flora and report their findings to Park management. It could be a new species of butterfly, an unusual migrant bird or damage to wildlife habitats, providing valuable information about changing ecology or where action was needed.

Standard walks were introduced to record the different wildlife species accurately. There were already bird records from 1921 but the new system enabled the consistent recording of other species. Twenty-five years later the records provide us with a good picture of the wildlife over that time.

The wildlife groups have been increasingly involved in practical conservation initiatives, such as:

- ◇ Enclosures of hawthorn and gorse near Conduit Wood providing a habitat for birds, insects and small mammals protected from the deer.
- ◇ Monitoring and protecting skylarks and waterfowl and their nesting sites.

◇ Planting wild honeysuckle near Ham Gate to encourage the White Admiral butterfly.

◇ Advising on the flora along the restored Beverley Brook and the new hedge in Pen Ponds Plantation.

◇ Advising on bird, butterfly and invertebrate habitats to be avoided in clearing bracken and ragwort.

◇ The new Elm Walk, re-introducing elms and encouraging the white-letter hairstreak butterfly.

The Friends and the Visitor Centre have funded many of these initiatives, alongside The Royal Parks. Many wildlife group members contribute to the Friends' walks, talks and pieces in the newsletter and e-bulletin.

The RPWG meets quarterly, chaired by Piers Eley, who also heads the butterfly group. Those attending include representatives of the various sub-groups, the Friends, Park Management, the Wildlife Officers and the TRP specialist ecologists. It's a friendly and productive interchange that leads to many improvements in the Park's wildlife.

So next time you spot one of these groups, greet them gently or better still – why not join them?

Wildlife Group Contacts:

Bird Group: Peter Burrows-Smith
smith1@virginmedia.com

Butterfly group: Piers Eley
piers@eleys.net

Flora Group: Mary Clare Sheehan
mc_sheahan@hotmail.com

Enquiries

Friends: see www.frp.org.uk. If your query is not answered here, please email secretary@frp.org.uk

Park management: contact Park Manager Simon Richards, 0300 061 2200 or email Richmond@royalparks.org.uk

Police non-emergency telephone number: 101

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Advisors: Ron Crompton, Richard Gray, Steve Sandham.



Friends' Talks and Talks with Walks

Talks with Walks begin at 10.15 am and are typically a 1-hour talk at Pembroke Lodge followed by a 1.5 to 2-hour walk in the Park. Talks also begin at 10.15 and last around an hour. These are all for members of the Friends only and do not need to be booked – just turn up. There is no charge and coffee and tea are provided. Please check on our website for more details of these and dates of other talks throughout the year: www.frp.org.uk

12 January	Stories of Richmond Park by Ron Crompton
16 February	Swans by Gemma Nelson.
16 March	Richmond Park during the wars by Diana Loch (Talk only)
20 April	Photography in the Park by Gerri Cummins

Membership and Subscriptions

Membership renewals for those paying by cash will be due on 1 January 2019.

If you wish to become a Friend, membership forms can be downloaded from our website: www.frp.org.uk/friends/get-involved, or picked up from the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge or by emailing me at membership@frp.org.uk. Individual membership is £10 and household membership is £15.

If you are a member and don't receive the monthly Friends' bulletin by email and wish to do so, please email bulletins@frp.org.uk with the subject 'Add to bulletin'. Please also include the first line of your address and post code. You can easily stop it at any time.

If you change your email or home address then please let me know by emailing membership@frp.org.uk and include your previous address.

With thanks
Chris Mason, Membership Secretary
(Post applications to: 38 Chesham Rd, Kingston, Surrey KT1 3AQ)



Discoverers is the Friends' activities programme for families. Join our mailing list for early notification of events. For full details visit:

www.discoverers.frp.org.uk/ or

[f /thefriendsofrichmondpark](https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofrichmondpark)

Photo of Discoverers by Brendan Blake

Nocturnal mammal survey

The Zoological Society of London, which runs London Zoo, also undertakes local conservation projects. Since 2014 it has been working with TRP to record and monitor the 30-40 hedgehogs living in Regent's Park (the only central London park which has them) using night vision cameras.

In late summer this year, ZSL and Friends' volunteers installed some 20 cameras at different locations in Richmond Park to record our nocturnal mammals, including badgers, foxes and hedgehogs. The conventional wisdom is that there are no hedgehogs in the Park – the walls make entry difficult and those that do enter are quickly eaten by badgers – but we eagerly await the results. Maybe they do exist here...

Friends' Walks

All are welcome. Friends' Walks are free, last about two hours and start from a car park. All except Bird Walks are on Saturdays unless otherwise stated.

If you need more information or special support or help with the walk, please phone Ian McKenzie on 020 8943 0632 or email walks@frp.org.uk in advance, or 07824 784335 only on the walk day itself. Also see our website: www.frp.org.uk

Please keep dogs under control.

Date	Starting at 10am from
1 December	Pen Ponds car park
26 December	Pembroke Lodge car park
5 January	Robin Hood car park
2 February	Roehampton Gate car park
2 March	Kingston Gate car park
6 April	Sheen Gate car park (+ walk the wall)

Plus Informal Bird Walks

Every Friday at 9.30am from Pen Ponds



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*Great White Egret
by Nigel Jackman*

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

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