

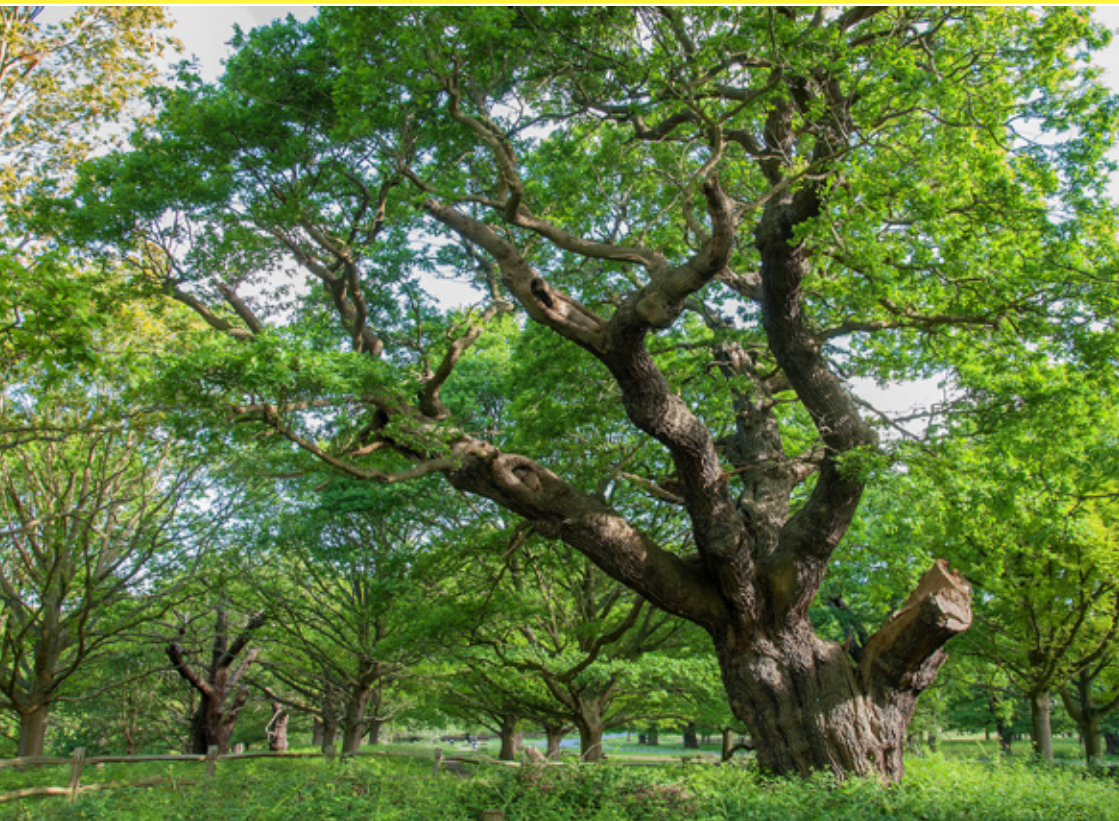


**FRIENDS of
RICHMOND PARK**

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

2021 The Friends' 60th Anniversary

Spring Newsletter



Ron Crompton, our Chair of 14 years, steps down

Welcome to new Patron, Clare Balding

Autumn Tree Photography Competition results

Managing the Park's trees

TRP's new Biodiversity Strategy

The Friends: 60 years young!

On 27th March 1961, the Friends of Richmond Park was established in response to the threat to create a new road through the Park. The Friends' objectives, to protect the Park and to educate the public about the Park, have remained the same throughout its 60 years. Covid is preventing a big celebration, but we hope you will join us for our online AGM on 24 April (details in the insert with this newsletter), where we can share some of the last 60 years of the Friends and the Park.

Sir David Attenborough has sent us the following message: "Richmond Park is without question one of the glories of Greater London. What other major city has such a paradise within its boundaries! It is a lifeline for many of us. And its wonders have in fact increased during the last 60 years, many materially supported if not actually initiated by the Friends. Many, many congratulations and thanks to them on their glorious anniversary".

Photo competition Trees of Richmond Park in Spring Free entry. Open now. Closing date 31 May

To celebrate The Year of the Tree, the Friends of Richmond Park is running a series of four seasonal photography competitions. 'Spring' is the final one, postponed from last year due to Covid restrictions. The overall theme is images that show the character of the Park's trees.

Please see:
www.frp.org.uk/spring-photo-comp
for details of how to enter, the prizes and Terms and Conditions.

2022 Friends' calendar Calling for photos Closing date 25 April

We are now inviting photos of Richmond Park for the Friends' 2022 calendar. Please see our website, direct link:
www.frp.org.uk/calendar2022 for details of how and where to send them.

We look forward to seeing your amazing images – a maximum number of 8 photos from each photographer, but not more than 4 from any one season: winter, spring, summer, autumn.

The 2021 calendar sold out and raised a record amount – around £10,000 – for projects in the Park. We are very grateful to all who donated their photos.

**Friends of Richmond Park thanks
its sponsors for their generous support**



Richmond Park by our new Patron, Clare Balding

A very warm welcome to Clare Balding, who became a Patron of the Friends in December 2020. She joins our other two Patrons, Sir David Attenborough and Baroness Susan Kramer.



I'm going to make a bold statement: I couldn't live in London without Richmond Park. There, I've said it. For a Hampshire-born country girl like me, living in London has always been a convenient necessity rather than a lifestyle choice. I used to have a problem with being in London on Sundays because there were too many runners, cyclists, and people with prams having large picnics. Then I realised there was a wild, open space big enough for everyone to have room to breathe.

Going to Richmond Park was our escape – a huge space that could engulf thousands of people without ever feeling crowded. A coffee and a bacon roll at

Pembroke Lodge café and then a tramp down the hill, left towards Ham gate, up the slope towards Kingston Gate, cut across to Isabella Plantation, keep going to Pen Ponds and then back up the long steady slope, glancing right for a view of the city and of course trying to get the sight line for St Paul's Cathedral. That was a Sunday in London I could really treasure. It calmed and restored me.

Now I am at home more (by which, of course, I mean ALL the time) I can come to the Park mid-week and, given the huge numbers of walkers at the weekend, it makes more sense. London's parks have never been busier and for a regular user like me, that can be quite alarming, especially when the car parks fill up, gates close and dustbins overflow with litter.

On the positive side, it shows how incredibly precious this 2,500 acres of woodland, lakes and grassland is to the entire population of west London. This is our Narnia.

Throughout this pandemic I have given thanks that I live where I do, within easy reach of Richmond Park and all that it offers. Like many people, I have been walking at least 5 miles every day to keep myself physically and mentally fit. It's why when people ask "how are you coping?" I can smile and really mean it when I say: "just fine."

Walking through Sheen Gate or Richmond Gate, I am immediately transported. I am no longer in London. On a bright sunny winter's day with a sprinkling of frost or even snow as we had in mid-January, this is the wonderland that lifts my soul.

Photos: front cover, Martin's oak © Eric Baldauf. Above, Clare Balding © Richard Gray

Autumn Tree Photography Competition Results!

Many congratulations to Cath Gothard, the winner of our autumn tree photo competition with her image of a dramatic veteran oak surrounded by the mist and mellow tones of the autumnal wood. Congratulaions also to runner-up Tammy Marlar and Nigel Attenborough. The autumn competition produced many beautiful photos of the Park's trees and you can see all 20 of the long and short-listed photos at www.frp.org.uk/autumn-photocomp/



Winner: Cath Gothard – Veteran oak

Over the past year, Cath, who also won our winter tree competition, has been into the Park more than ever and has started to make prints from her photos. She says: *"Printing has made me a better photographer because everything has to be perfect – any error is amplified."* You can see Cath's photos at www.cathgothard.com and [@cathgothardphotography](https://www.instagram.com/cathgothardphotography)

Cath describes how she came to take this winning photo on a beautiful, very foggy morning in November. *"The usual morning Park mists don't tend to penetrate the woodlands much, so I wanted to walk through some of my less visited wooded areas to experience them in fog. The fog stuck around all morning, which gave me lots of time to explore, and I ended up wandering for 12 foggy kilometres. I had no idea that this veteran oak was in this particular wood, and was lucky to stumble upon him in such amazing light, with a backdrop of full autumn colours."*

Runner-up: Tammy Marlar – The Beech and the Birch

Tammy is an award-winning, professional nature photographer living in East Putney. She specialises in wildlife, landscape, macro and garden photography, is widely published and regularly teaches and lectures in photography. See her photos at www.tammymarlar.com and [@tammymarlar](https://www.instagram.com/tammymarlar)

Tammy says: *"I captured this scene in mid-November when autumn was in full dance in the Park. I had gone to the side of Pen Ponds in search of resting stags, as the light here is often magical at around 2 o'clock in the afternoon. But it was the trees in the nature reserve, which runs alongside the ponds, that stole the show in the low-slanting winter rays. It was breathtakingly beautiful and I drank the scene in before settling on this composition of a beech and a birch, a riot of autumn ambers, coppers and golds, with streaks of silver too, shimmering and almost ablaze. Colour tends to dominate my photography but my more usual subject is the Park's wildlife, so it was wonderful to shoot something more static for a change!"*



Third place: Nigel Attenborough – Veteran hornbeam

Nigel has lived within walking distance of Sheen Gate for many years. His long-standing love of photography has come to the fore since he retired from his work as an economist. Usually armed with a camera, Nigel walks in the Park nearly every day to enable him to clock up 10,000 steps on his pedometer! He likes black and white photography, but the winning photo is full of colour. See Nigel's photos at www.nigelattenboroughphotography.com



Nigel took a similar photo three years ago, and would have liked to enter this for the competition. However, he needed a recent photo to qualify and so he decided to find the same tree again. Finding the tree was difficult – but a long search was finally well rewarded.

And to quell your curiosity, dear reader, he is not related to our esteemed Patron. Nigel says that

Attenborough was a not-uncommon name in Nottinghamshire in olden days.

Reported by Vivienne Press

All photos are the copyright of the photographer

Managing the Trees

Reported by Alison Glasier from the Friends

If you have some trees in your garden, you will know that they need care and attention – maybe regular pruning, checking for pests, a bit of watering in dry weather. Well, imagine if you had 130,000 trees to look after, and you have some idea of the scale of the task that Park Manager Simon Richards has.



It's amazing to realise that some of the trees that we see now existed when the Park was first enclosed in 1637. The line of veteran oaks you can see to the west of Holly Lodge is shown on a map of that time, forming a field boundary! There is usually no record of when an ancient tree was planted, but it is estimated that the Royal Oak could be 550-600 years old and the oldest oak in the Park 700-750 years old.

At enclosure the Park had relatively few trees (it was largely common pasture land) and only Barn Wood and High Wood date back to medieval times. In the 1700s a few more trees were planted, for example those framing the famous view of St Paul's Cathedral. But the biggest addition by far was in the early 1800s with plantations of oak for timber for ships and acorns for deer, such as Sidmouth Wood. In the 20th century new plantings were largely commemorative, including Coronation

and George V Jubilee Plantations and, more recently, Prince Charles's Spinney and Two Storm Wood.

Of the Park's four key species, by far the largest is oak, making up 50% of the total, followed by beech, horse chestnut (conkers!) and sweet chestnut. But there's also hawthorn, birch, alder, willow, hornbeam, lime, elm, cherry, poplar (including black poplar which is one of the rarest of native UK trees). And there are non-native, ornamental species, particularly in the Isabella Plantation where you can find collections of maples, magnolia and sweet gum. Elsewhere in the wider park there are isolated examples of cedar, redwood and monkey puzzle.

Photo: Veteran oak © Eric Baldauf

in Richmond Park

January 2021 Webinar with Simon Richards

Simon and his team have to ensure the health and safety of all these trees, and protect the wildlife that live in them. The Park has around 1300 veteran trees and is in the top five veteran tree sites in the UK where veteran trees are rarer than listed buildings! A veteran oak can sustain up to 1000 other species, providing not just nesting sites for birds but a habitat for bats, insects, lichen and fungi, as well as food for deer and other mammals.

All trees can suffer from pests and diseases. Oak trees may be afflicted with oak processionary moth and a team of volunteers, led by arboriculturist Gillian Jonusas, goes into action in June and July to survey these trees and report back on caterpillar sightings. The fine hairs of these caterpillars pose a danger to people and pets and can cause skin rashes and respiratory problems so the nests need to be removed by experts wearing hazmat suits and using sophisticated equipment.

Oaks are also susceptible to potentially lethal acute oak decline and horse chestnuts may develop bleeding canker which means they become unstable very fast and need to be felled. But it's not all depressing. Forty years ago, elms suffered catastrophically from Dutch elm disease, but 48 disease-resistant trees were recently planted in a new Elm Walk near Petersham Gate, funded by a Friends' appeal.

Climate change provides new threats to the Park's trees. Wetter winters with heavy rain and storms can topple or seriously damage trees, while long summer droughts mean parched and stressed trees. Regular surveying and summer watering is essential to minimise losses and damage. Climate change also requires planting different species of trees, including non-natives that may be better adapted to the new weather patterns and can ensure diversity for the well-being of wildlife in the future.

The trees aren't just threatened by weather, pests and disease. If allowed, deer devour the lower branches (hence the tree 'crates' around new trees) and squirrels cause damage, particularly to beech, hornbeam and young oaks.

Humans also have been known to light barbecues setting trees on fire, climb the veteran trees or make dens from fallen wood, which is home to many invertebrates. Thousands of tramping feet can compact the ground and damage the roots of trees, which is why Simon is now fencing many veteran trees to keep people away from them; the wooden 'Sussex' fencing is erected without screws or glue in an environmentally sympathetic way.

So next time you visit the Park, do look around and remember the extraordinary efforts that go into the maintenance and protection of these remarkable trees and think of Simon, Gillian and the team working in the background to ensure that we continue to enjoy them.

Watch the Webinar on Managing the Park's Trees, which includes an interview by Patron Clare Balding at <http://bit.ly/RemarkableTrees-Webinar>

Enormous thanks to Chairman Ron Crompton

The Friends' Trustees and Patrons extend enormous thanks to Ron Crompton who is stepping down at April's AGM as Chairman of the Friends, after fourteen very successful years in the role. The Friends celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, so Ron has been Chairman for almost a quarter of its life! However, we are delighted that Ron is not going away and will still be involved with the Friends, taking on projects that he particularly cares about. We asked him a few questions about his time as Chairman:

"Yes" he admits, "it's a long time for anyone, but I've thoroughly enjoyed it. And longevity has its advantages – you can start long-term projects and get to see the results. For example, the Visitor Centre, staffed by the first few Friends' volunteers, started about the time I did, so it's taken all my fourteen years to grow to where it is now."

What has given you most satisfaction? "All the direct contributions we've made to the Park in the conservation projects we've funded, such as the Beverley Brook re-wilding and the veteran tree protection, or through our volunteer groups, or from our campaigns such as protecting the St Paul's view."

What have you most enjoyed? "Being part of the Richmond Park community – the Park management team, wildlife experts, the police panel, Pembroke Lodge and so on – a wonderful group of people, working with them to make a difference. And in that I include the Friends' own community of the people who run it, the people in the volunteer groups and the members. Without them, and especially the Committee, none of it would be possible."

What single thing will you remember most in future years? "It has to be making the film with David Attenborough and the atmosphere at its launch at the Royal Geographic Society. I'll never forget that."

Any big disappointments? "Yes, I'm disappointed that we haven't had more success in influencing visitor behaviour: deer harassment, damage to trees and landscape and so on have all become worse in the last fourteen years. I feel we've been running hard but never got ahead of the problems."

From Simon Richards, Richmond Park Manager



"It has been my pleasure to work with Ron for over half my tenure. His achievements are countless and key has to be the respect that the Friends enjoy in the local community."

From my point of view, as resources available to The Royal Parks have diminished it has been great to work in partnership with the Friends to develop so many new initiatives and particularly the direct funding of so many projects that deliver direct conservation benefits to the Park.

Photos: 2019 Ron with Simon Richards © Richard Gray. Above right: 2012 Ron with David Attenborough

Ron has also spent much time leading the Friends' Forum – the overarching group of Friends group chairs who meet to advise the Chief Executive and help shape our overall policies. I know Andrew Scattergood (and Linda Lennon and Mark Camley before) have hugely valued Ron's advice and wise influence. It is certainly true that our other parks Friends' groups are all seeking to emulate the success seen at Richmond.

I am pleased to know that Ron will remain involved with the Friends and thank him sincerely for the support that he has provided to myself and my team in the Park over the years."



From Sir David Attenborough, Friends' Patron

"I have lived close to Richmond Park for nearly seventy years, but it was not until a decade or so ago that I became aware of how vigorous and imaginative a body the Friends could be. Project was following project – the re-wilding of the Park's stretch of the Beverley Brook, the return of the Elms after their disastrous epidemic, a special campaign to urge visitors to welcome the Park's designation as a National Nature Reserve by 'treading lightly' – and much else. Ron Crompton as Chairman of the Friends was actively involved in all these projects and many more, bringing his characteristic energy in getting things done – and not least in raising the funds to do so. All of us for whom the Park is such a treasure owe him our heartfelt thanks."

From Baroness Susan Kramer, Friends' Patron

"Ron's love for Richmond Park and its biodiversity, his knowledge and his self-effacing good humour have made him not only an effective leader of the Friends during a particularly challenging fourteen years but one who has grown both membership and vital fundraising."

When I enjoy the ponds and streams, the new Elm Avenue, the ancient trees, I know that Ron has been key to protecting and enhancing the best that the Park can offer. He has been a stalwart campaigner in the many challenges that never end, protecting the iconic view of St Paul's from King Henry's mound and encroachment from Heathrow flight paths to name but two. He retires as Chairman but thankfully remains a Friend. Thank you Ron."



Photo above: 2017, Ron receiving gift for 10th anniversary as Chairman © Anne Dixon

The Royal Parks' new Biodiversity Framework

by Hugh Bradshaw

In this year of COVID, many have come to appreciate the natural splendour of Richmond Park. But we cannot take the pleasure of being in the Park for granted.

Accelerating 50-year trends in climate change, wildlife and tree diseases, air and water pollution, alien species and visitor numbers, are causing increasing damage to Richmond Park's fauna and flora, as they are worldwide.

Already a worrying number of species are declining or have become extinct in the Park. Amphibians are declining due to greater summer drought, and pollinator populations, such as bees and wasps, have declined along with national trends. The brown hare and grey partridge disappeared some years ago due to the increase in visitors and their attendant dogs. More recently, the common redstart and tree pipit have been victims of climate change; and the loss of the common starling as a breeding species is probably down to competition for nest sites with the alien ring-necked parakeet.

Several tree diseases now threaten the common ash, horse and sweet chestnuts and oaks, including ancient oaks, while grey squirrels severely damage beeches, and parakeets strip the new shoots off horse chestnut trees. Ponds suffer from alien invasive weeds such as floating pennywort, and warmer weather encourages algae.

Greatly increased visitor numbers, especially during lockdowns, have widened paths, compacted the soil around trees and in acid grasslands, and damaged

swathes of ant hills. And, of course, the deer are facing ever more harassment from visitors and dogs.

It's a sad litany of threats to the Park's biodiversity. So, the recently published Royal Parks Biodiversity Framework 2020–2030 is very timely and offers a way of halting this downward spiral. Although not a weighty tome, it sets out, in a clear and succinct way, the vision to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and describes some of TRP's current and planned actions.

Key to this framework are three objectives:

- (i) to increase the resilience of biodiversity to climate change
- (ii) to protect, conserve and enhance priority and characteristic habitats and species
- (iii) to provide sensitive and sustainable access to nature for all.

Read in tandem with the Richmond Park management plan, it gives a coherent approach to countering the threats to biodiversity and the protection of the Parks.

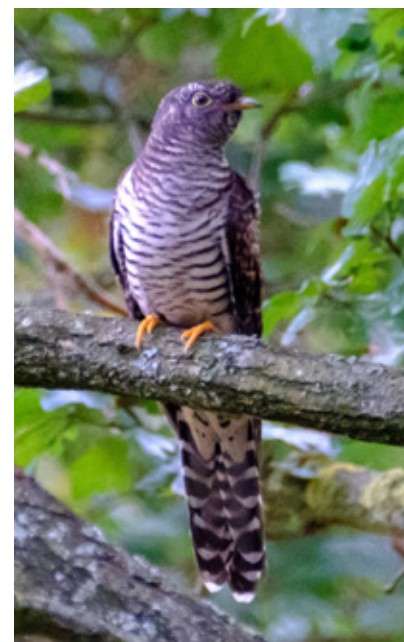
In the Framework, TRP recognises the need to strengthen partnership with the Friends, Wildlife Groups and other volunteer groups, allowing us all an opportunity to help realise the Framework's objectives. The Framework is meant to be dynamic, updated as required to deal with unforeseen events, and we know all about those!

You can find TRP's Biodiversity Framework and the Richmond Park Management Plan at www.royalparks.org.uk.

Cuckoos in the Park

by Nigel Jackman

Cuckoos arrive from Central Africa around late April and migrate back from mid-summer. Like a small bird of prey in appearance, the males have greyish uppers, the females are either grey or reddish-brown and juveniles are a rich brown with a white spot on the back of their neck. All have barred chests.



Although cuckoos are no longer common in the Park, listen for the eponymous call of the male bird between April and June. A female may lay many eggs, each one in a different nest, typically of small birds such as reed warblers or dunnocks. The newly hatched cuckoo will eject every other egg or chick in the nest before imposing exhausting demands for food on its unwitting foster parents.

Cuckoos feed up, particularly on caterpillars, before migrating, and it has been

interesting for the birdwatching fraternity to have witnessed their behaviour over the past two years.

A juvenile cuckoo was seen in early August 2019, then regularly for several weeks in a patch of woodland and adjoining cluster of oak trees, which clearly constituted its territory. Perched low and feeding in the oaks, it often dropped to the ground for caterpillars, worms and other insects. We suspect that this cuckoo was born in the Park and had remained to enjoy the good habitat and abundance of food prior to its migration in early September.

In late June 2020, an adult male was spotted in an oak tree, and shortly afterwards a juvenile was seen in the same location. This is a very rare occurrence as adults are totally uninvolved with their biological offspring. Then remarkably, later that day, both birds dropped from the same tree to feed. Again, the juvenile probably originated in the Park, especially as it appeared so early in the season.

There were several further sightings of the juvenile over the next few weeks, demonstrating the same behaviour seen before – residing and feeding in a small territory. Each territory was only 400 to 600 metres from the other. One day there was the totally unexpected sighting of two juvenile cuckoos in brief flight together and of one flying at the other, which was perched. A juvenile cuckoo and occasionally an adult continued to be seen until early September.

It will be interesting to see what happens this year with these enigmatic birds.

Photo: Juvenile cuckoo © John Saunders

A lifeline for our mental health

by Peter Dobbie, former Executive Editor, Mail on Sunday

Walking the Park, the faces of many betray their anxiety. The stress is palpable and understandable while certainties now seem a mountain to climb. Jobs are tenuous or gone while relationships, already strained, have buckled under enforced habitation or separation. Yet for others the Park has been a lifeline.

GPs report that patients asking for help for stress related illnesses has, unsurprisingly, risen dramatically during the past 12 months. They are reluctant to prescribe a tablet and many have suggested nature. As such Richmond Park is a remedy that has proved invaluable. *"It's an incredible place as we all know,"* says Dr Alison Greenwood, a clinical psychologist from Dose of Nature which receives referrals from local GPs. *"But during the pandemic it has come into its own."*

The charity does not, in her own words, offer 'some hippy dippy' remedy but one that is an evidence-based intervention. Trained volunteers take referrals on a series of weekly walks which they are then urged to repeat on their own. It brings them into contact with the Park's natural wonders and alleviates anxieties that overwhelm and depress.

The benefits, says Greenwood, are vouched for by grateful feedback: *"Isolation, not seeing friends and family. Nature, in this case the Park, has proved a lifeline."* As it has for children,

particularly those with special needs. Shortly before Christmas a group arrived at the Holly Lodge Centre for a very special day out, their first since the start of the pandemic. Some were deemed at risk and had been shielding while others did not understand the basic idea of social distancing. *"Many had never been on a school trip before and the staff were naturally very anxious,"* explained Anna King, the manager of the Centre. *"The children had a very high level of need."*

The task of transporting the group, all under eight, took weeks of preparation. For the Centre, with the dual problems of the enforced absence of its 160 volunteers and reduced fundraising, it brought its own challenges. Yet the day proved a success. The children responded to a tranquil and reassuring space within the grounds of the Centre.

The 'sensory walk' along the Holly Lodge nature trail included activities such as feeling blocks of ice, smelling orange, cloves and cinnamon and touching branches of pine. Ponds and rocks revealed insect life, while Christmas lights and gingerbread biscuits brought smiles and an assurance for the children that Christmas had arrived.

We will look back at Covid as a time of sadness and stress. But our Park, for some, surely provided a shaft of light during difficult times.

Conservation volunteers in Sidmouth Wood

In the autumn, before the lockdown, thirty Friends' conservation volunteers were able to put in some good hours working in the Driftway (the public footpath through the middle of Sidmouth Wood). They removed the many rhododendron and thinned the birch seedlings, leaving clumps to give good cover for birds. To help this, they used Tree Poppers, bought by the Friends, which are fantastic tools for uprooting young birch.

The Driftway path is being widened to create a 'woodland' (grassy) edge and the birch along it has been coppiced to encourage thicker growth at a low level and a useful wildlife habitat. Rowan and hawthorn will be planted to provide a range of flowers and berries, alongside self-seeded plants such as willow, sweet chestnut and holly.

Because of Covid and the bird breeding season it's likely the volunteers' next session won't be until August/September.

E-scooters and skating: what's allowed?

Like many of our members, TRP is concerned about the appearance of e-scooters in the Park and the proposals to legalise their use.

TRP says *"We believe the speed and stealth of the scooters presents an unacceptable risk to pedestrians and allowing e-scooters to operate in the parks could discourage (walkers) and undermine the peace and ambience of the green spaces."*

As a result, *"TRP does not, and has no plans to, permit the use of e-scooters on the land it manages"*.

In contrast it does permit skating – defined as 'foot- propelled devices', including roller blades, roller skates, freeline skates, roller-skis, skateboards/waveboards and normal scooters – which can use the Park roads although *"Jumps, tricks, dance steps or spins ... using park furniture or setting up slalom obstacles or loud music are not allowed"*.

Adam's Pond

As we went to press, work had started on the renovation of Adam's Pond near Sheen Gate. It was last renovated in 2008 but has suffered badly since then, especially from deer and dogs. In May last year, a swan was attacked by two dogs on the pond even though dogs should be on a lead around it.

The plan is to fence it but have gates leading to large spaces inside the fence where families with children can sit and watch the wildfowl. The pond, its reedbeds and margin areas will be renovated to improve it as a habitat for wildlife. A wide circle of metal fencing was installed in January and will be painted Royal Parks' green in the summer.

The renovation is being paid for by TRP's Mission Invertebrate programme, as part of the People's Postcode Lottery funding.

Friends' activities Covid 19 update

We are re-starting our volunteering activities: Adopt an Area litter picking and the Royal Parks' Community Rangers re-started in early March and our conservation volunteers will re-start in late March. The Visitor Centre will re-open on 29 March for information only and then fully re-open from 15 April.

During the winter months, we have held two very successful webinar talks – on fungi in November, and on managing the Park's trees in January, which had over 400 attendees. We plan to have more members' webinars in the next few months.

Discoverers has recently held a poster competition for young people, encouraging visitors to take their rubbish away with them when they leave the Park. The winner will be announced at Easter.

By popular request, we are selling Walks with Remarkable Trees by post: www.frp.org.uk/tree-walks/ see back cover.

Please see our monthly e-bulletin for information about members' webinar talks, and when other Friends' activities will resume.



Discoverers is the Friends' activities programme for families with school-age children. Please see our website or Facebook page for information: www.frp.org.uk/discoverers/ or  /thefriendsofrichmondpark

Membership and Subscriptions

Please note that membership renewals for those paying by cash was 1 January 2021. Individual membership is £10 and household membership is £15. Please send payment to Chris Mason – details below.

It's easy to become a member: you can sign-up online at www.frp.org.uk/membership/ using your credit card. Alternatively you can obtain a form from the website, from the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge or by emailing me at: membership@frp.org.uk.

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 this at any time using the unsubscribe button.

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

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

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 phone number: 101

Friends' new online shop with Click and Collect

Many of you will have bought Friends' Christmas cards and gifts through our new online shop. We launched this in mid-September with sales of calendars and Christmas cards for postal delivery in the UK.

When the second lockdown with closure of the Visitor Centre (VC) came in early November, our VC managers, Marilyn Wilkinson and Diane Peake, suggested adding a click-and-collect service: customers could order and pay for items on our online shop and then collect them from the VC. This entailed altering the website, planning the work to be Covid-secure, recruiting volunteers and advertising. Amazingly, this was all done within three weeks!

From the first day, click-and-collect sales were very popular, and continued to be so even after the VC was allowed to re-open at the start of December. The goods on offer were Richmond Park honey, tea towels, Royal Oak prints, Tree Walk booklets and Friends' beanie hats, as well as calendars and cards.

Amazingly, by early December, our stocks of calendars and cards for postal delivery had run out! By 19 December, when we again had to close the VC, these had almost sold out there too, including for click-and-collect, and all the other gifts had also sold well. We were delighted to see such wonderful sales as all proceeds go towards conservation projects in Richmond Park.

Many thanks to Marilyn and Diane; Vivienne Press who organised the postal delivery via our printers Selsey; Hugh Deighton who did a huge amount of work keeping track of orders and stock; and Steve Sandham who managed the website development.

Our online shop is now closed. However, we will be opening it later this year, hopefully with even more products. Thank you for your support last year!

Newsletter people

Production, Layout and Editor:

Vivienne Press

Assistant editors: Christine Ecob,
Alison Glasier

Proof reader: Sally Wood

Advisors: Ron Crompton, Steve
Sandham

Contact: editor@frp.org.uk

Would you like to receive your Friends' Newsletters as PDFs?

If you would like to receive future newsletters as pdfs instead of in print, please email Chris Mason at membership@frp.org.uk with the Subject heading of '**Online Newsletter Only.**' Examples of the newsletter as pdfs can be found at www.frp.org.uk/newsletters.



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/thefriendsofrichmondpark



@FRPtweets



The first and second sets of our very popular self-guided tree walks are now on sale for delivery by post, for £5 each set + p&p, and at the Visitor Centre when it reopens. see www.frp.org.uk/tree-walks/

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

Friends of Richmond Park is sponsored by:



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