



## **The Friends of Richmond Park Annual General Meeting 2022**

Dear Member,

This year's AGM will be on Saturday 23 April 2022 at 11.00am.

We will hold the meeting using Zoom, which we have successfully used for the last two years' AGM and for webinars.

This leaflet has the formal notice and agenda of the meeting and a summary of the Trustees' review of the year. The formal Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021 and the minutes of the AGM held in April 2021 are on the AGM page of our website at [www.frp.org.uk/agm/](http://www.frp.org.uk/agm/)

**If you would like to attend the meeting, please book a place by using the Eventbrite booking system <https://frp2022agm.eventbrite.co.uk>**

**Questions can be submitted when registering or can be submitted by 15 April 2022 by sending an email to the Secretary, Judith Pearson, at [secretary@frp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@frp.org.uk)**

Given the nature of the meeting, please book your place and submit any questions at least a week in advance of the meeting.

The formal business of the meeting should take 15 minutes and the Chairman's summary of the year a further 15-20 minutes. Following these, we will open the meeting to questions and discussion for an hour or so, starting with the questions received in advance i.e. a total time of up to an hour and a half.

Roger Hillyer  
Chairman, The Friends of Richmond Park

# Friends of Richmond Park Review of 2021

## COVID, the Park and the Friends

Increased visitor numbers during the winter's Covid restrictions plus heavy rain caused much damage particularly to paths and put the Friends usual activities on hold. We compensated with making 'Walks with Remarkable Trees' available to buy online and by holding two webinars: one on trees (see below) and the other with broadcaster and writer David Lindo, which included a new Friends' film on migrants and resident birds in the Park. With the lifting of restrictions, the paths started to improve and our activities resumed: Conservation volunteers and Adopt-an-Area litter pickers restarted in March; the Visitor Centre reopened in April and our Saturday morning guided walks began again in June.

## Through traffic and car parking charges

In March, The Royal Parks announced the results of their consultation on the traffic trial restrictions in Richmond Park and an extension of the trial to March 2022 to collect additional data. The trial restrictions had widespread support and we considered this support and the benefits were sufficient to implement the restrictions on a permanent basis. We continue to press for improvements to the conditions for pedestrians crossing the road.

Also in March, The Royal Parks announced that it would, subject to parliamentary approval, go ahead with proposed car parking charges. As proposed by the Friends, there were two changes from the consultation, a reduction in the weekday hours, and alignment of the weekend charges. In our view, car-parking charges are a reasonable way to tackle car park congestion at weekends and bank holidays, reduce weekday commuter parking, encourage more non-car travel to the Park and fund the traffic-related infrastructure of the Park.

## Light and noise surveys

In 2021 we commissioned two separate independent expert reports into the light and the noise in Richmond Park. The light survey showed that the light level virtually everywhere in the Park is equivalent to a rural area, with some places being very dark. The report also highlighted areas where light spillage could be reduced.

The noise survey showed that the Park is exceptionally quiet at night at 23dB. During the day the average noise rises to 40-50dB, equivalent to a typical office. The noise is partly due to background and traffic noise outside the Park and partly due to people talking loudly or calling their dog, to birds (such as parakeets!) and to traffic in the Park. While aircraft operations at the time of the survey were low because of COVID, the few that did fly over created noise levels of 70-80dB.

These reports provide excellent records of the conditions in Richmond Park. The Friends has formed a small monitoring group to continue this work.

## Year of the Tree

With COVID restrictions reducing what was possible, we extended '2020 The Year of the Tree' into 2021. Our activities in 2021 started with a webinar that included a new film 'The Remarkable Trees of Richmond Park' featuring our new patron Clare Balding, and over 400 people attended. This was followed in the spring by the last of our seasonal Tree Photography competitions. The final event was the launch in September of our Let's Discover activity booklet for children about trees featuring Olly the little owl.

During the two years, we donated £70,000 for tree conservation works in Richmond Park and raised awareness and understanding of the importance of trees to Richmond Park.

## Protecting skylarks

In March we produced a film highlighting the importance of skylark protection areas in the Park presented by Clare Balding. The film, in which Clare meets dog owners, bird experts and Park Manager Simon Richards, explains why signs and some fencing have been installed to alert Park visitors to breeding skylarks.

## Heathrow

While COVID and its impact on the aviation industry has delayed Heathrow expansion and the planning process for a third runway, we still face the prospect of re-configured flight paths in the southeast of England with flights directly over Richmond Park ('airspace modernisation'). Our campaign against them continues.

## Signage

The Friends continues to work with The Royal Parks to develop better signage in the Park to encourage helpful visitor behaviours. At the end of the year, 30 Friends volunteers supported this by carrying out a survey into trial signage.

## Conservation Grants

The Friends was the main funder of a tree and plant quarantine area in the existing nursery area at Isabella plantation, contributing £29,000. We also funded tools for removing tree roots to support our Conservation volunteers, chestnut pale fencing and posts to protect dead wood, a further tranche of fencing for veteran tree enclosures and the construction of chestnut pale fencing around seedling hawthorn trees.

## The Visitor Centre, online sales and Friends calendar and Christmas cards

Overall sales were nearly back to pre-Covid levels, and those of the 2022 Calendar and Christmas Cards were actually higher, and raised a record £13,000. A wonderful effort by all the volunteers involved with the Visitor Centre and the online shop.

## Members and volunteers

Membership increased by 18% during the year and we now have over 3,800 members. We think the increase is partly a continuation of a trend over the last few years as we have become better known and partly from the large number of new visitors during COVID.

We now have nearly 300 volunteers, the increase is largely due to more Adopt-an-Area litter pickers. In a normal, non-COVID year our volunteers work a total of around 15,000 hours and contribute over £160,000 to the Park (valued at the London Living Wage). We thank all our volunteers for their hard work and flexibility during another very difficult year.

# Friends of Richmond Park AGM 2022

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of The Friends of Richmond Park will be held at 11.00 am on Saturday 23 April 2022 by Zoom.

Members wishing to attend should book a place by using the Eventbrite booking system <https://frp2022agm.eventbrite.co.uk>.

Questions should be submitted when booking or sent by email to the Honorary Secretary at [secretary@frp.org.uk](mailto:secretary@frp.org.uk) by 15 April 2022.

## Agenda

1. **Apologies** for absence.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 24 April 2021
3. To receive the **Annual Report and Accounts** for the year ended 31 December 2021.
4. **Election of Officers.** The following have been nominated:

(a) Chairman:	Roger Hillyer
(b) Secretary:	Judith Pearson
(c) Treasurer:	Hugh Deighton
5. **Election of Trustees.** The following have been nominated:  
Janet Bostock, Nick Coleman, Helene Feger, Chris Mason, Monique Sarkany, Nigel Sherwin, Lucy Tarleton and Vivienne Press.
6. **Honorary Independent Examiner.** Feltons have been nominated.
7. **Chairman's summary** of 2021
8. **Questions to Trustees and discussion of matters of concern.**

The minutes of the last AGM held on 24 April 2021, and the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021, are on the Friends of Richmond Park's website at [www.frp.org.uk/agm/](http://www.frp.org.uk/agm/)

The review overleaf is taken from the 2021 Annual Report.