



FRIENDS of
RICHMOND PARK

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

Newsletter Spring 2022



Discoverers is growing!

Protecting veteran trees, skylarks and swans

White Lodge — a dream come true

Park Rangers and the deer

Young volunteers

Pen Ponds causeway

Friends of Richmond Park thanks its sponsors for their generous support



Discoverers is growing!

Created 10 years ago, Discoverers is the Friends' activities programme for families with school-aged children. We have been running workshops for up to 30 participants, including parents and children, around six times a year. Topics have included 'Fungi Trail' and 'Bat Watching'.

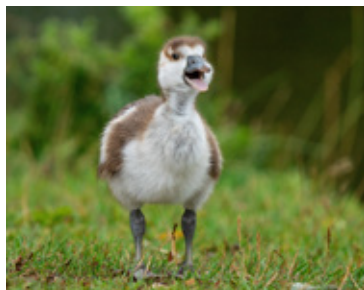
As of 2022, Discoverers is widening its reach: not only do we aim to run one event a month throughout the year in the Park, but every other month that event will have no limit on numbers. All events will offer fun with an educational content focused on discovering the Park's fauna and flora and how it has come to look and be the way it is.

We kicked off in January with 'Birdwatching by Pen Ponds', followed in February by a 'Winter Tree Trail' in Pembroke Lodge Gardens, and a conservation walk along the Beverley Brook in March.

Watch out for future events, which will include 'Animal Homes in the Park', a Dawn Chorus meeting (you need to be prepared to be up early for that one!) and very specially, a timely celebration of HM The Queen's Jubilee in June.

To see what's coming next, do register with us at www.frp.org.uk/discoverers/. Please email discoverers@frp.org.uk if there is a particular adventure that you would like us to organise. We are always happy to hear from you and look forward to seeing you soon.

2023 Friends' Calendar Calling for photos Closing date 1 May



We look forward to receiving your wonderful photos of Richmond Park for the Friends' 2023 calendar. Please see our website, direct link: www.frp.org.uk/calendar2023 for details of how and where to send them.

The 2022 calendar sold in record numbers and raised over £10,000 for projects in the Park. We are very grateful to all who donated their photos.

Egyptian Gosling ©Adeel Khan
 [adeelkhan.photography](https://www.instagram.com/adeelkhan.photography)

Front cover photo:
Stags in velvet © Nicola Usher

Protecting Richmond Park's 'blithe spirits'

by Richard Gray

Wordsworth's 'ethereal minstrel' and Shelley's 'blithe spirit' — the soaring song of the skylark — is heard every spring in Richmond Park.

According to the RSPB, the skylark population declined across the UK by 75% from 1972 to 1996. In Richmond Park, there is still a relatively healthy population and The Royal Parks, the Friends and the Bird Group continue to work hard to protect them.

As skylarks are ground-nesting, they are easily disturbed by dogs and people, and 2021's huge increase in Park visitors caused by the pandemic was of great concern.

So to help publicise the importance of protecting skylarks of the signs and fencing installed by The Royal Parks, the Friends launched a major information campaign with substantial media coverage, based on our short film with Clare Balding (available on the Friends' YouTube Channel). This seemed to be very successful as nesting numbers in 2021 were similar to or slightly higher than in 2020 (recorded by the Bird Group).

Please ensure that in the skylark breeding areas you follow the Skylark Protection signs by sticking to paths and keeping dogs on lead. In doing so, we can all play our part in protecting these blithe spirits.

THANK YOU! Richard Gray



Richard Gray, who has stepped down as a Trustee after eleven years, will be a familiar face to readers as presenter and producer of Friends' videos including Fungi Safari and Remarkable Trees for our Zoom webinars last year and Protecting Skylarks with Clare Balding.

Richard led our marketing activities throughout his time as a Trustee and was responsible for developing our current logo, our sponsors and the initial Friends branded products; he also handled our mainstream media, including the excellent coverage of the St Paul's view and Heathrow campaigns in the national media.

Richard also devised and led major events and projects, such as the Poetry and Posters in the Park competitions, the inauguration of Attenborough Pond, the Poet's Corner restoration celebration with leading actors and the poet David Harsent. More recently, as part of our Year of the Tree campaign, he organised the launch event for and commissioned the Royal Oak print from Mark Frith. Richard was also co-producer and co-script writer of the film 'Richmond Park, National Nature Reserve' narrated by Sir David Attenborough.

Richard has made an immense contribution to the Friends and has become a Vice-President, focusing on Friends-funded conservation projects and the Park's conservation and wildlife generally, for which he has become a passionate advocate.

CONGRATULATIONS! Janet Bostock



Janet, Mike Fitt and Simon Richards

Friends' Trustee Janet Bostock has won the prestigious Royal Parks Guild Conservation Award. Previous winners include Sir David Attenborough and John Bartram, Richmond Park's wildlife officer.

The award is 'in recognition of her outstanding contribution, as a volunteer, to wildlife conservation in Richmond Park, including her leadership of The Friends conservation volunteer group' and brings with it the Jeanette Lawton Bowl, a framed citation and a commemorative paperweight.

Janet's conservation volunteer group started in 2009 and now has 90 volunteers, of whom 25-30 are typically involved in each Saturday session; they often work mid-week as well. The group is best known for its clearance of rhododendron from Pen Ponds Plantation, but it now does a wide range of other conservation work.

Janet is an expert on the Park's fungi. She leads Friends' walks and Discoverers' sessions on fungi every autumn and contributed fascinating articles for the Friends' newsletter (Summer 2020, conservation work and Autumn 2020 and 2021, fungi). She also gave the Friends' Fungi Safari webinar in autumn 2020 www.frp.org.uk/fabulous-fungi/

We congratulate Janet on her very well-deserved award and look forward to her continuing to amaze us with the conservation group's work and her knowledge of fungi.

Did Richmond Park change philosophy?!

This year is the 150th anniversary of the birth of Bertrand Russell, the internationally renowned philosopher and Nobel prize winner, who spent his childhood at Pembroke Lodge. Russell's parents (and sister) died before he was four and he and his brother were brought up by his paternal grandparents, Lord John and Lady Russell, until he went to Cambridge University at 18. Lord John was Prime Minister in the 1840s and 1860s and Queen Victoria granted him Pembroke Lodge as a residence.

Russell's adolescence was lonely; his grandmother was sternly religious and he was home-schooled by tutors. He found solace in

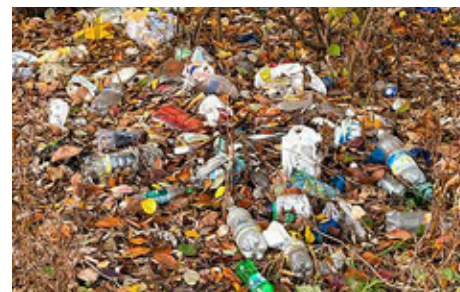
the nature around him in Richmond Park and in books. He later wrote that "*I grew accustomed to wide horizons and to an unimpeded view of the sunset. I have never since been able to live happily without both*".

Russell became a leading philosopher, logician, mathematician, historian, writer, social critic, political activist (in WWI he was imprisoned for his pacifism) and famous public intellectual. He later gave the inaugural Reith Lectures in 1948 and in 1950 was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature for his 'varied and significant writings in which he champions humanitarian ideals and freedom of thought'.

Not just a Walk in the Park!

Our highly successful Adopt-an-Area (AaA) litter picking scheme seems to have itself been adopted by under-18s working towards Duke of Edinburgh (DoE) awards, by volunteering.

As a newly-trained volunteer Ranger, I was keen to find out about the students' experiences in the Park. Based on interviews via Zoom and a questionnaire, Monique Sarkany (Discoverers) Nigel Sherwin (AaA) and I collated their responses.



Litter in the Park ©Steve Sandham

Initial impressions were generally that the work was deemed to be easy and, as one described it, 'a walk in the park!' Yet all agreed that there are so many other facets involved, and indeed many benefits, not just a means to an end. The strongest responses fell into two obvious categories: environmental and personal.

Frankie echoed many respondents, feeling his efforts had: "*Helped in making the Park look cleaner and making it safer for the wildlife, as well as having time to think and getting out of the house.*" He added, "*Sometimes there is the challenge of motivation but I love it when I'm out. I've learnt that small things really do make a difference.*"

When asked how they had personally benefitted from litter picking, Kush responded, "*It has helped me to understand the real environmental issues, especially with the production of plastic and single-use items. I am more aware of how much litter there is when I am walking around and we all have a responsibility.*"

Many students reported being new to volunteering and that their experiences had spurred them on to do more. Lawrence still thinks that volunteering is time-consuming, but feels it is never wasted time: "*I continue to have great respect for people who volunteer. I would fully encourage other young people like myself to put themselves forward in whatever way they can.*"

When asked what was particularly challenging, responses ranged from a snapped shovel and "*a fire extinguisher, which was a challenge to put in my bag*" to the remains of a large picnic including the plastic tablecloth! Others highlighted the positives of people using the bins provided and of the many complimentary comments they received about their work.

It is clear that the young volunteers really benefitted from their experience of volunteering in the Park, including giving them a greater understanding of the responsibilities of visitors and the many benefits that can be enjoyed within this wonderfully rich and diverse environment.

Reported by David Plummer
Ranger and Retired Principal of Notre Dame School, Cobham

Miss Murray's Legacy

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the first Act of Parliament governing public behaviour in the Royal Parks and the creation of a designated police force to enforce it. Both these developments were prompted by an incident in which one of Queen Victoria's Ladies in Waiting was mugged in Richmond Park. On 19th April 1854, after lunching with Lord and Lady Russell at Pembroke Lodge, the Hon. Miss Murray, a Lady of the Bedchamber, was walking towards Kingston Gate when she was stopped by a teenager with a pistol. He took her watch and chain and one of her rings.



One can imagine the outrage. How could this be allowed to happen? What could be done about it? What about the security of Lord Russell who had been Prime Minister until two years before while living at the Lodge? Many will have put the attack down to the increasing public access to Richmond Park and lack of policing, which allowed ruffians such as this to thrive.

For the first half of the 19th century Richmond Park was managed mainly for venison for the royal warrant. Public access was restricted largely to the roads and tracks, with six gatekeepers keeping out undesirables. However, the rapid growth of London and its middle class led

to pressure for greater public access and by the 1850s the Royal Parks were being managed 'as a pleasure ground and a place of recreation'.

The gates were thrown open and more and more people visited the Park. The Head Keeper reported "*Hundreds of people of all descriptions flocking in fine weather*" and "*much stealing of birds' eggs*". It became clear that the Park's existing six keepers were inadequate and after the attack on Miss Murray, a small police force was attached to Richmond Park.

Then, 150 years ago the Parks Regulation Act 1872 gave the existing keepers full police powers and a separate Royal Parks Keepers force was established. The Royal Parks kept their separate police force until 2004 when it was absorbed into the Metropolitan Police (although it is still managed as a separate unit).

The Act also set out the first Park regulations, some designed to protect the wildlife, and others aimed at anti-social behaviour. They banned the playing of music, entering an enclosed plantation, destroying or injuring any tree or shrub, worrying or ill-treating any animal, delivering a public address and discharging a firearm. All of these still feature in the current regulations, which have been expanded to keep up with changing behaviours and technologies. There is a summary of the current regulations affecting Richmond Park at www.frp.org.uk/park-regulations/

by Ron Crompton and Vivienne Press

Photo: Keeper outside Kingston Gate 1913
©The Hearsom Collection

White Lodge – a dream come true

Standing majestically between two plantations, aptly named Duchess Wood and Queen Mother's Copse, is a building designed for royalty. The White Lodge provided accommodation for British nobility and aristocracy for nearly three centuries, but not any more. For nearly 70 years, it has been the home of The Royal Ballet School.



Myriads of walkers and cyclists pass by every day. A few stop at the gate and gaze at Roger Morris' imposing Grade I listed Palladio-inspired Georgian Lodge. Its assignation as a lodge is to do it a disservice. It's grander than that.

The occupant on the 21st April 1926 was His Royal Highness, Duke of York and eventually King George VI. On that day, his daughter, Queen Elizabeth was born. As a result, his residence on her birth certificate is registered as 'Albert, father, White Lodge, Richmond Park, Surrey.'

By the 1950s running costs escalated, and its fate hung in the balance. Proposals for its future included a Country Club or an annexe to the V&A. Fortunately, The Royal Ballet School acquired the lease to White Lodge in 1954 and took up residence in 1955.

The gate sports the school's coat of arms, which features the motto 'strength and grace' and a bird of prey and a swan – both coincidentally residents of the Park.

So how does living in a palace in a Royal Park affect the young dancers? FRP inquired and the students were kind enough to let us have their thoughts.

Sophia said: "*The Lodge's grandeur and the beauty of the Park inspire me to do my best...The deer are so elegant and inspire me to be the same.*"

Lewis said: "*In the Salon, there are the most stunning portraits of royalty and I try to impress them when I dance. I think the deer are very similar to our ballet in how they hold themselves and how they jump. So when I hear the deer I like to visualise them gliding across the Park with their friends. It's a wonderful trick to get you to sleep especially when the sound of the rutting might keep you up.*"

Yulia: "*I really like living in Richmond Park because it is peaceful...There are many places to go in the Park and it is massive! I also really enjoy watching the ducks, geese and swans in the lake and especially the baby ducklings, goslings and cygnets in the spring.*"

Lewis: "*When I first arrived at White Lodge, I vividly remember seeing a herd of deer outside the school. I was mesmerised and got chills from how stunning and noble they looked.*"

And the last words from Sophia: "*Every day I am grateful that I live in such an inspiring place. It is a dream come true.*"

Photo: West façade of White Lodge with students of The Royal Ballet School c1956.
© The Royal Ballet School Special Collections.

Reported by David Beaumont

Beautiful, wild and unpredictable

To see 600 wild deer running free within a few miles of central London is amazing! Visitors come for miles, even from across the world, to see the deer of Richmond Park. They want to do the right thing – but sometimes they don't know what that is, especially around the deer, and that's where the Park Rangers come in...



Ranger Steve says: *"I love the deer, the smell, the primeval guttural roar of a stag on a crisp September morning heralding the start of the rut, the clatter of antlers either in playful jousting or a dramatic full-on confrontation between two evenly matched adversaries. A hind's gentle mew as she returns to feed her new-born calf concealed in the bracken."*

"The more you watch these graceful animals the more subtle interactions you can pick up, but in order to see these played out we humans need to give them space. This is especially so in the birthing season (May to July), when mothers can react aggressively if they feel their young are at risk."


Ranger Duncan says: *"Nearly all my encounters with the public involve walking up to groups of people who are standing close to and watching the deer. We want people to come and enjoy the deer and it's not surprising that some visitors try to get very close to such beautiful animals. But once we explain about the harm this causes the deer and the danger to themselves and their dogs, we usually find that visitors are happy to move 50 metres away."*

Sitting deer are busy digesting

Steve explains: *"Deer sitting ruminating (chewing the cud) is a vital part of their day, allowing a bolus of food to be coughed up and repeatedly chewed in order to extract the maximum amount of nutrients."*

"So, the calm demeanour is not an invitation to approach them for a close-up selfie, or to touch them or offer them food, which they don't need. As soon as people get too close, the deer inevitably stand up and may move away, and this interruption stops them digesting."

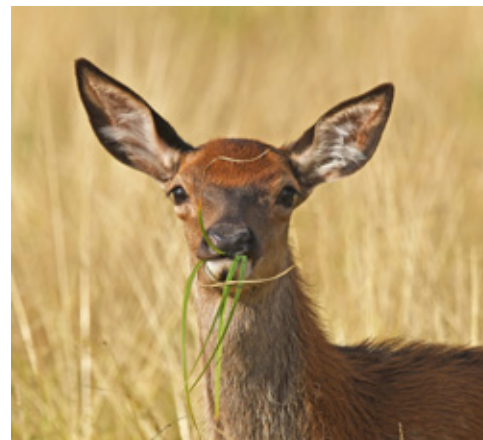
Photo top: Breakfast ©Adeel Khan

 adeelkhan.photography



Photos: Above, stag in velvet; facing page; hind, both ©Nicola Usher

The deer have plenty to eat already



There are round 90,000 oak, chestnut and beech trees in the Park all providing food for the deer – so they have plenty to eat. However, many visitors love to try to feed the deer, often with their own picnic food that the deer can't digest properly. This is not good for the deer and dangerous for people.

Steve says: *"It's not surprising that some deer have now learnt that people are a good source of food. There are a group of fallow deer (called the picnic boys) that hang out around Pembroke Lodge car park to seek out anyone with a back-pack or plastic bag. They then pester people for food, often taking mat-*

ters into their own hands by sticking their noses into bags and getting antlers entwined in clothing. I've also seen red deer hinds kicking people who have been feeding them and then turned their backs to leave."

Duncan says: *"I recently came across a woman who was too close to a herd of hinds. One of them sensed she had food in her handbag and approached her and wrestled the bag away. I was able to go across and firstly, ask the people to move back and then, when the hind was preoccupied with munching on a carrot, I was able to step in and retrieve the bag safely."*

"These are behavioural traits that we can put a stop to by not encouraging these bad habits by offering food in the first place."

If a deer comes towards you...

In the event that you are approached or charged by a deer, The Royal Parks' advice is to: 'Try to put a vehicle or a substantial barrier (like a big tree) between yourself and the animal. If you have a dog, let it off the lead. The dog will be more capable of escaping when unrestrained, and may actually be the reason that the deer has become agitated in the first place. If you find a deer advancing towards you, do not shout or wave at it. Back off slowly if possible, the deer may be satisfied you have left its personal zone.'

For more information, see www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/richmond-park and scroll down to Deer Safety Advice.

Reported by Vivienne Press

with thanks to Rangers Steve Read and Duncan MacCallum, and Nick Coleman

Pen Ponds Causeway changes — in conversation with Adam Curtis

1,000 years is definitely a long time. So a once-in-a-thousand-year event is pretty rare. But it was the possibility of such an extreme rainfall event that prompted the Environment Agency to require The Royal Parks (TRP) to raise the level of the Causeway between the two Pen Ponds in the Park. Without these works, there was a risk that the ponds could overflow and the resulting deluge could threaten not only the Park but also residential and shopping areas such as East Sheen and even, perish the thought, Waitrose.



The Causeway has been extensively renovated and now appears wider, higher and generally much smarter. The apparent increase in width is actually more of an illusion – the removal of old tree stumps gives an impression of more space – but the Causeway is higher by several inches.

I spoke to Adam Curtis, Assistant Park Manager, to find out more.

As the landowner, TRP was responsible for the work and had to bear the substantial costs involved (in excess of £150,000). The work began in Summer 2021 and, with delays and frustrations as supplies were held up by the lorry driver crisis and shortage of materials, the work took much of the rest of the year.

The material used has a pH level similar to the Park as an alkaline material would pose a risk to the acid grasslands for which the Park has its SSSI rating (Site of Special Scientific Interest). Reinforced concrete was used at the lower end of the Causeway with banks to deflect any water flow. As you walk along the Causeway, you will notice a long concrete line which is completely level, ensuring that any flow of water spreads out evenly avoiding any surge of water in one place. At one point, the line deviates slightly to circle one of the trees; this was done to avoid damage to the roots.

Chestnut paling protects the bank down to Lower Pen Ponds and an area at the Pembroke Lodge end; this is to allow plant growth to develop without disturbance and will be removed when growth is established. The fencing will then be stored and used again when needed for as long as it lasts. Underneath the plant growth is a layer of mesh to guard against erosion and ensure that the dam doesn't break in any single place.

Photos: above, during the works ©Roger Hillyer; facing page, afterwards ©Amanda Boardman



Adam pointed out that the rubbish bins and emergency life-saving equipment had been moved to either end of the Causeway to minimise the risk of further erosion. For the same reason, there are no plans to increase trees or seating in this area.

Although TRP were obliged to carry out this work, there are clear advantages in the resulting environment providing a contrast between the more formal and organised area at the Causeway and the wild area at the other side of Upper Pen Pond which is fenced off to provide a natural and undisturbed habitat for flora and fauna. Together with improvements to the path up Sawyers' Hill to Pembroke Lodge, it is hoped that this will channel visitors to these areas and provide protection for the wilder areas of the Park. This is especially important given the ever-increasing numbers of people visiting the Park. The improvements are expected to last for many years, subject to annual inspection.

All of which is good news for Park visitors, and the good people of East Sheen can now sleep easier in their beds.

Report by Alison Glasier



Mute swans on Pen Ponds ©Nigel Jackman — see article on next page

Mute swans on Pen Ponds

by Nigel Jackman

Having no distinctive call, only loud snorting, hissing and the rhythmic throbbing of their wings in flight, our largest water bird is aptly named the Mute Swan. They stand out magnificently in their distinctive snow-white adult plumage, and captivate us with their grace and presence as they glide across Pen Ponds, particularly when accompanied by their grey, downy young cygnets. The larger male (cob) can be distinguished from the female (pen) by the more prominent black knob at the base of its bill. They form long-lasting pair bonds from the age of two onwards and are resident all year.



They are more or less sedentary, partly because they were once semi-domesticated, and until the nineteenth century were called the 'Tame Swan' to distinguish them from the wild swans (Whooper and Bewick) that visit parts of the UK in winter. Typically, there might be one pair each on Upper and Lower Pen Pond and sometimes another on Adam's Pond, but fortunes change unpredictably from year to year.

Their nests are built of huge mounds of vegetation, at Upper Pen Pond con-

cealed in the reed bed. Supplementary straw is placed on the island on Lower Pen Pond where there is a shortage of nesting material.

Mute swans will try to retain their chosen territory for as long as possible and territorial disputes can become violent and involve fights to the death. You may witness a swan, wings and feathers intimidatingly raised and fluffed up, as it chases an interloper across the ponds before bursting into flight and attacking it aggressively. This behaviour may continue for some time until the issue is settled.

Five to twelve eggs are laid in the spring and the cygnets emerge five to six weeks later. Swans feed on aquatic vegetation, small fish and insects, and cygnets feed independently straight away. They are zealously guarded by their parents and stay with them until fully grown when the adults drive them away to maintain their breeding territory.

Nevertheless, broods sometimes fail, and the young are extremely vulnerable to predators such as herons, crows, foxes and pike in their first weeks – often with only a few survivors reaching adulthood. Dogs off leads have also caused injuries and fatalities. Shamelessly, a jogger kicked and killed one cygnet on the causeway in 2019.

Our swans and other wildlife should always be respected. They deserve space and not to feel threatened. Dogs should always be on leads in their vicinity and The Royal Parks now discourage bird feeding.

Photo: Mute swans and cygnets © Nigel Jackman

Protecting the Veterans

by Ron Crompton and Richard Gray

Many Park visitors have wondered why an increasing number of trees are being enclosed by wooden fencing.

All these trees are veterans, mostly oaks hundreds of years old. They are ecologically extremely valuable, providing food and shelter for thousands of species. An ancient oak supports up to 2,300 species of fungi, invertebrates, birds, bats and other mammals.



The fencing protects the trees' roots from being damaged by compaction, caused by thousands of feet from ever-increasing visitor numbers. Compacted ground around trees becomes waterlogged in heavy rain or suffers drought in dry periods, limiting root development which inhibits plant growth and increases the risk of being blown over during storms.

Because many veterans are pollarded with short and sometimes hollow trunks, people climb and explore them and even light barbecues in them, causing huge damage. It's

not uncommon to find the earth inside a hollow oak beaten hard by human feet and its trunk blackened by fire from portable barbecues.

In the last two years, as part of our Year of the Tree programme, the Friends have funded the enclosure of 60 veteran trees with natural chestnut 'Sussex' fencing – ingeniously erected with no screws or glue. You can see how it's done in the Friends' video on our YouTube pages.

The fencing covers the area of the tree's main roots. Inside the fencing bracken, bramble and other vegetation grows quickly, providing a habitat for wildlife – and a further disincentive for people to enter it. The fencing also protects visitors from falling limbs, especially children who are less aware of the dangers.

The Royal Parks manages the programme, choosing which trees should be fenced based on their value (age, rarity, national importance etc), the damage they've incurred, the risk of shedding limbs etc. But the Friends can influence the choice. So, if you think a particular veteran tree needs protection, please email ron.crompton@icloud.com preferably with a picture and a GPS location.

Is the change in the look and feel of the Park worth it? Well, we'd prefer it not to happen. But the veterans are perhaps the most valuable feature of the Park, historically and ecologically, and TRP has a legal duty to manage and protect them so they survive for another few hundred years. It's another way the Park is changing to protect its unique character in the face of increasing visitor numbers.

Friends' Walks

All are welcome to come on these free guided walks.

Each walk lasts about two hours and starts from one of the car parks at 10am on the first Saturday of each month.

If you need more information or special support or help with the walk, please phone Ian McKenzie on 020 8943 0632 or email him at walks@frp.org.uk in advance, or phone 07340 766573 only on the day of the walk.

In addition there are informal bird walks every Friday at 9.30 am from Pen Ponds car park, motor vehicle access only via Roehampton Gate.

Dogs must be kept on leads during all walks.

Due to road closures in the Park, we show the gates that those arriving by motor vehicle will need to come through to reach each car park.

- 2 April Sheen Gate Car Park (+ Walk the Wall) via Sheen Gate.
- 7 May Broomfield Hill Car Park (Isabella) via Kingston, Ham or Richmond Gate
- 4 June Pen Ponds Car Park via Roehampton Gate.
- 2 July Robin Hood Gate Car Park via Roehampton Gate.
- 6 August Kingston Gate Car Park via Kingston, Ham or Richmond Gates.

Enquiries

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

Park management: Richmond@royalpark.org.uk.
Police non-emergency phone 101



Discoverers is the Friends' activities programme for families with school-age children. Please see page 2 and our website or Facebook page for information:

www.frp.org.uk/discoverers/
 or [f /thefriendsofrichmondpark](https://www.facebook.com/thefriendsofrichmondpark)

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Welcome Rachel Walker Website, e-bulletin and social media



Rachel has taken over Steve Sandham's roles and she says: "I am delighted to be volunteering with FRP, communicating with members via the bulletin and social media. I moved to East Sheen four years ago with my husband and we visit Richmond Park most days for a run with our son or to walk our dog. I have a keen interest in natural history having completed a PhD in plant evolutionary genetics at Cambridge University and studying at both Kew Gardens and the Natural History Museum. I currently run my own business called The Fold Line, an award-winning online sewing pattern shop that inspires a global community of makers to sew their own clothes."

Friends' AGM

**Saturday
23 April 2022
11.00am
by Zoom**

Details of the AGM are in the insert with this newsletter, and also at www.frp.org.uk/aggm/



Membership Joining and Renewals

Please note that membership renewals for those paying by cash/cheque was 1 January 2022. 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.

If you wish to receive this newsletter as a pdf instead of as a printed booklet, then email membership@frp.org.uk with the subject as 'Newsletter as pdf' using the email address registered with us.

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



**FRIENDS of
RICHMOND PARK**

Registered charity number 1133201

www.frp.org.uk



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@friendsrichmondpark



The recently updated Set 1 of our very popular Walks with Remarkable Trees is now available at the Visitor Centre, along with Set 2.

£5.00 each set. 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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