

# The Friends of Richmond Park



What is the Park for?

Autumn fungi

Princess Alexandra opens new horse ride

Something for everyone at Open Day 2008

The Park this winter

This issue marks the end of a very enjoyable and fruitful hand-over period and a new beginning for me as editor of the Friends newsletter. But my predecessor Alison Donaldson's extensive knowledge and expertise will not be lost to the Friends; she remains a member of the Committee and she has also agreed to be Consultant Editor of the newsletter. I'm very grateful for the guidance, ideas and contacts that Alison has provided over the past year, and delighted that they will continue. She has done a wonderful job on the design and content of the newsletter, and I anticipate few changes, just my best efforts to maintain her high standards.

The 2008 young people's photo competition left us with an impressive collection of photos of the Park in all seasons, and we have drawn upon them again for our winter cover and to illustrate some articles. We hope that young photographers are already out and about in the Park taking photos for next year's competition – and future newsletters.

In this issue we have also made space for a Comment piece (on page 10). I'd welcome more contributions from Friends of Richmond Park, so please do send me your ideas, letters, and comments, however short (around 400 words fills a typical page). For example, you could:

- write a Comment piece, or "Letter to the Editor", or respond to one;
- write about what Richmond Park means to you for a "My Richmond Park" feature;
- write about volunteering for a page about our volunteers;
- tell us if you spot any interesting wildlife in the Park...

Your photographs would be very welcome too. I look forward to hearing from you.

Marilyn Mason  
 marilyn.mason@virgin.net

### Cover photos

Entries to the 2008 young people's photo competition  
*Front:* "Blizzard in April – surprised deer" by Tom White, aged 14  
*Back:* "Stormy Skies" by Jessica Darlington, aged 15

### The 2009 photography competition for young people

The Friends are already beginning to organise the next annual photography competition for young people, which will start early in the new year, with the prize-giving in June.

We need to replace members of the team which organised the first two competitions, in particular, Karen Rockell, who is now focused on Education, and Jackie Grimes, who has left the Committee. The process is now well established, and Karen and Brian Baker will be available to hand over and guide the team. There is a variety of tasks to be done which can fit in with your interests and availability. If you would be interested in joining the team, please contact Ron Crompton at [ron.crompton@frp.org.uk](mailto:ron.crompton@frp.org.uk).

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### What is the Park for?

The purpose of The Royal Parks, restated in its latest annual report, is to "manage the royal parks effectively... balancing the responsibility to conserve these unique environments with... policies to encourage access... enjoyment, education, entertainment and healthy recreation". This is an excellent statement of what The Royal Parks should be doing: balancing conservation against human use of the parks.

But when we come to what the report has to say about The Royal Parks' objectives and performance targets for the current three years, this balance is completely lost. Only one of the six objectives concerns protecting the natural park environment, and that is qualified by the statement "for the enjoyment of families, children and visitors", not an end in itself. There is another objective to "conserve the historic built environment", but the rest are to "understand and respond to the needs of our audiences", "deliver clear education, health, sport and participation offers", "deliver greater value for money for the taxpayer through increased income generation" and "demonstrate organisational excellence".

None of the 15 performance targets relates to the conservation side of the balance. Instead, they are such things as "gain Green Flag status" (an award for good park management), "maintain or enhance customer satisfaction", "improve partner and stakeholder management", "reduce accumulated maintenance" (there is a backlog of £59 million), "increase profitability of commercial activities", and "improve staff satisfaction levels".

It is tempting to dismiss all of this because of the management-speak (what is a "participation offer"?), but there are important points here. The objectives and

targets reveal the priorities of The Royal Parks, which are all about increasing human use of the parks and reducing the cost to the taxpayer. This reflects the priorities of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), to which The Royal Parks reports (I wonder whether DCMS sees Richmond Park as culture, media or sport – I suspect sport).

They say in business that "what is not measured is not managed". This is particularly true if bonuses are tied to achieving targets, as I suspect is the case with the bonus of the Chief Executive of The Royal Parks. I doubt that these objectives and targets will affect how Richmond Park is managed day-to-day, but they will almost certainly affect how head office spends its time, which projects get funded and which new initiatives are implemented. If The Royal Parks continues to promote human use of the parks and greater commercialisation to reduce the cost to the taxpayer, the "unique environments" of the parks mentioned in its purpose will suffer. Nothing in The Royal Parks' objectives and targets recognises this.

With the emphasis now so much toward human use and away from protecting the natural environment, there is more need than ever for the Friends to correct the balance.



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 London SW14 8JJ

## Fungi in the Park

Elisabeth Cheesman, with photos by Nigel Reeve, Royal Parks Ecologist

### The nature and ecology of fungi

Formerly classified as plants, fungi are now known to be a separate kingdom. There are two types: macrofungi and microfungi. The macrofungi (those such as mushrooms and puffballs that produce easily visible fruiting bodies) have some characteristics analogous to those of plants, such as the root-like "mycelium" (the hidden part) and seed-like spores produced by the fruiting bodies (the visible part). A fungal mycelium can spread over a large area of its "substrate" (the material it feeds on), and can exchange substances through its "hyphae" (tiny thread-like extensions to the mycelium); the fruiting bodies shed their spores to start a new growth. There are also thousands of microfungi in the form of yeasts, moulds and so on.

Fungi are very important for the breakdown of decaying matter, returning it to the environment. They can also form a "mycorrhizal" relationship with plant roots, giving, as well as receiving, nutrients; it is said that many plants could not exist without this relationship. Fungi are food for animals, particularly invertebrates, and are used by humans too.

### Types of macrofungi

Macrofungi come in many shapes, including balls, clubs, warts, crusts, and wrinkled or coral-like masses, and in a great range of colours, often spectacularly bright. Smell and texture can be as important as appearance for identification. Stem (typical mushroom- or toadstool-shaped) and bracket fungi can drop their spores from gills, pores or spines; others may release spores directly from a spore-bearing surface, in tiny vessels called "asci".

### Some Richmond Park fungi



On grassland we commonly see the traditional mushroom or toadstool with stem, cap and gills, such as Parasol (*Macrolepiota procera*) or Fairy Ring (*Marasmius oreades*). Under trees, especially oak trees, we might find the fungi of tree roots or leaf litter, such as Butter Cap (*Collybia butyracea*) and Lilac Bonnet (*Mycena pura*), and sometimes Puffballs (e.g. *Lycoperdon* species) and Earth-balls



(*Scleroderma* species), which release their spores by bursting open at the top. Don't forget to look up into the trees too, as you may see large bracket fungi such as Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) or Chicken-of-the-Woods (*Laetiporus*



*sulphureus*); these names refer to texture and appearance rather than taste. Most of these do not destroy living wood but co-exist with the ageing process. Even fallen and felled wood is far from dead, and provides food for many fungi, such as Turkeytail (*Trametes versicolor*), Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) and Glistening Inkcap (*Coprinus micaceus*).



### Useful books

The most comprehensive field guide is Roger Phillips' *Mushrooms and other Fungi of Great Britain and Europe*, but it is large and the huge number of species can be overwhelming for the beginner. But none of the smaller guides is completely satisfactory, and there is a danger of forcing a specimen to fit their limited range of examples. The Mycological Society recommends the Collins Nature Guide *Mushrooms and Toadstools of Britain and Europe* by Edmund Garnweidner, and the Collins Little Gem is

surprisingly good for its size. I also use the recent Dorling Kindersley publication *Fungi*, as it gives good habitat information as well as the newly-devised English names.

### Foraging and the law

Fungi should never be taken from a nature reserve or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) such as Richmond Park, except, with permission, for scientific study. The police in Richmond Park are very vigilant and will prosecute. In other places, fungi should only be picked with permission from the landowner, who may impose conditions. The Forestry Commission, for instance, allows one basketful for personal use but no commercial harvesting.

### About the writer

I had some grounding in botany as a child, helped by my father who was an art teacher and amateur naturalist. When I retired early from Classics teaching, my botanical skills improved quickly as my love of nomenclature and being out-of-doors seemed to come together. I started on fungi because they mainly occur in the autumn when the plant season is declining. I find them extremely interesting and beautiful, and enjoy the fact that many of their generic names come from Greek, but it is proving hard to learn on my own and I am trying to get as much expert help as possible. I have found local natural history groups very encouraging to beginners, and they can certainly do with our support.

Elisabeth Cheesman

Elisabeth is leading a Friends walk focusing on fungi on November 1st.



Princess Alexandra opens the new ride, accompanied by Park Manager Simon Richards (front left) and donor Phil Swallow (front right). Photo by Giles Barnard

### New horse ride opened

On a perfect September morning, Princess Alexandra opened the new horse ride on Broomfield Hill. The new ride offers great views across the Park and is a gentler route, more suitable for novice riders, than the one it replaces. It has been carefully located away from the road and avoids areas of the Park that could be damaged through heavy use. The route will enable the old ride, lined by valuable trees, to be restored to parkland. After the ceremony, Princess Alexandra was driven back to Thatched House Lodge with Mark Camley, Simon Richards and others.

Funding for the project was provided by a generous donation made by Mr Phil Swallow (pictured above, with Princess Alexandra) through the Richmond Park Charitable Trust (RPCT). Phil Swallow is a local Kingston resident who rides regularly in Richmond Park and is a Trustee of the RPCT.

### Ringlet butterflies spotted

A breeding colony of Ringlets was found in July in the Park by Ken Cheesman, possibly the first time that such a colony has been recorded. The colony was close to the border with Ham Common, in a damp and relatively dark area near several patches of flowering bramble, which attract many butterflies. Ringlets are a similar size and colouring to the male Meadow Brown, also be found in that area, but they lack the amber patch on the underside of the upper wing that is a distinguishing mark of both sexes of Meadow Brown. They also have a much more noticeable white fringe around the outside edges of both wings, another helpful distinguishing mark.

### Nice weather for some

The wettest August since 1912 proved to be good news for amphibians such as frogs, toads and newts, which need damp shady places to survive once they have left the ponds they breed in. This year

Park amphibians enjoyed the freedom to roam as never before, and on rainy nights in September Park roads were sometimes littered with frogs and toads looking for suitable places to hibernate.

### But Autumn comes early

Horse Chestnut trees, as in previous autumns, have been affected by Leaf Miner Moth caterpillars, which cause their leaves to brown and fall early. So far, Park Chestnut trees seem to have survived these infestations, and next spring they should look as lovely as ever.

### Bracken control

The stacks of cut bracken in the Park at this time of year are destined to become an acidifying mulch for the Azaleas and Rhododendrons of Isabella Plantation. Bracken "bruising" was carried out in August to prevent bracken colonising areas of more sensitive vegetation.

### Royal Parks in the news

Local *Informers* reported proposals to introduce Fixed Penalty Notices in the Royal Parks for offences such as failing to clean up dog mess, playing musical instruments and cycling in forbidden parts. People spoiling the Park environment for others could face on-the-spot fines of between £40 and £60.

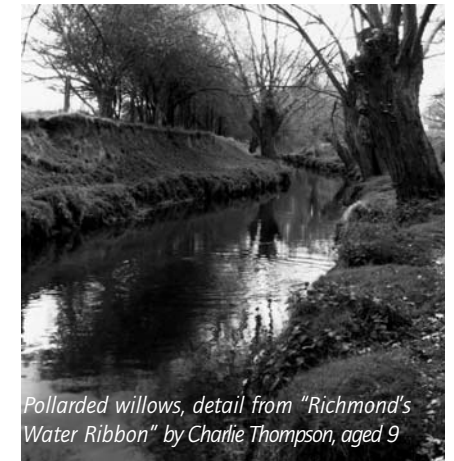
### Peace in the Park

The annual duathlon in the Park on 14 September meant closed roads and an excellent opportunity to walk or cycle in the Park without traffic around.

For weary duathletes, Park staff recommended a common Park plant, Silver weed, otherwise known as "Traveller's Ease", effective for sore feet because it contains a mild antiseptic and cooling refrigerant.

### Pollarding the willows

The Beverley Brook is lined with about 130 trees, most of which are Crack Willows. As their name suggests, they have brittle twigs and branches which are prone to break, ending up in the river and requiring a tedious removal job. To reduce this, Park staff pollard about ten trees each year, cutting the branches back to a height above the browsing deer. New shoots will appear in spring, creating an ever-changing cycle of different tree sizes and canopy density. (More on winter maintenance in the Park on page 13.)



Pollarded willows, detail from "Richmond's Water Ribbon" by Charlie Thompson, aged 9

### Royal Parks Annual Report

The Royal Parks has issued its 2007-8 Report, entitled "My Park Is ...". It can be downloaded from The Royal Parks website ([www.royalparks.org.uk/about/publications/](http://www.royalparks.org.uk/about/publications/)) or purchased from The Stationery Office, price £13.90. It contains details of some interesting projects and improvements being undertaken in the Royal Parks, and of Royal Parks funding.

With thanks to Park staff, Max Lankaster and Piers Eley for news items.

## Something for everyone at Richmond Park Open Day

by Michael Davison, with photos by Michael Davison and Karen Rockell



Alfie Walker, aged four, from Swiss Cottage, tries on the antlers of a red deer stag at the British Deer Society display.



Traditional country crafts were a theme of Open Day. Simon Farndon shows how to weave a hurdle fence section out of hazel rods.



Three-year old Ashling Shand takes the driving seat of a John Deere tractor, one of the pieces of heavy machinery used in the Park.



After a morning spent drawing the wagon, one of the shires has shoes replaced by farrier Michael Johnson of Ham, a task he performs every six weeks.

From carriage rides to a bouncy castle, from face-painting to pond-dipping, there was something for all the family at Richmond Park Open Day on September 21. As well as all the fun, there was plenty to learn about the Park from the imaginative hands-on displays by wildlife organisations and local community groups. In sparkling sunshine 2,300 visitors "clocked in" at Holly Lodge, and some families who arrived at 11 am were still strolling among the 35 exhibitors' stalls at the end of the afternoon. A full programme of guided walks took visitors out into the Park to hear from experts about its history, its deer, its trees and its butterflies. The event, organised by the Royal Parks team at Holly Lodge, was described by Park Manager Simon Richards as "a huge success". Assistant Manager Adam Curtis enjoyed the "wonderful community spirit" and praised the contribution of the Friends of Richmond Park: "We couldn't have done it without the help of their 30 volunteer stewards, whose amazing enthusiasm helped the day to go with a swing."



The Friends stall, with mobile nature display



Steve Green, who looks after the horses at Holly Lodge, gives youngsters a ride on a wagon drawn by the Park's stalwart shire-horses Jed and Forte.



Young naturalists intrigued by the creepy-crawlies discovered by dipping a net into a pond in the Holly Lodge gardens.

## Are dogs and wildlife compatible?

by John Karter

Concern is growing over the small minority of dog owners who allow their pets to run out of control and threaten the Park's wide variety of animal inhabitants. Ron Crompton, Chairman of the Friends of Richmond Park, says: "Dog walking in the park is on the increase and the conflict between dogs and Park wildlife is becoming a real problem."

Three cases of attacks on animals in recent months, two of which resulted in prosecutions, have highlighted the situation. The most serious case, heard at Richmond Magistrates Court in August, involved a dog attacking a deer and biting it on the side of the face and the ear, resulting in the deer having to be humanely destroyed. The dog-walker was convicted under the Dangerous Dogs Act but given an absolute discharge. In another dog attack on a deer, the owner escaped with a caution as the deer was not seriously injured and the dog was under control when the police arrived.

In August, another dog owner was cautioned after allowing a dog into Bishop's Pond, where it chased ducks. This was despite the notices around many Park ponds asking people to keep their dogs out of the water in the late spring and summer months to protect young birds, especially swans. Last year all the cygnets born in the park were lost, killed by foxes and dogs – but dogs can still frequently be seen swimming and playing in the ponds and some of the notices have been removed or damaged.

Over the years, dogs rooting around in the undergrowth are thought to have

been responsible for the loss of several species in Richmond Park, including hares, weasels and stoats. They are also thought to have caused a drop in the bird population, especially skylarks, which nest on the ground. However, notices asking dog owners to restrain their dogs in areas of the Park where the skylarks nest have been effective and numbers have increased recently.

Park Manager Simon Richards, a dog owner, makes it clear that the Royal Parks are not mounting an anti-dog campaign: "Everyone is welcome in Richmond Park but we expect them to behave responsibly and thoughtfully. As far as dog owners are concerned that means keeping your dog under control at all times. Observing seasonal notices has been shown to be of considerable benefit to wildlife."

*John Karter is the new Friends Publicity Officer, and an item based on this article appeared in Richmond & Twickenham Times.*



*Lewis Blakey, aged 14: "Harmony of the pond" – a harmony easily disturbed*

## The Park this winter

by Simon Richards, Park Manager

As ever, the Park continues to keep my management team exercised in a variety of ways.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, the last two summers have been relatively favourable for the establishment of young trees and we have been concentrating on replacing trees that had failed as a result of the previous years' droughts. The most commonly planted trees are Oak, Hawthorn and Sweet Chestnut. We have stopped planting Horse Chestnut due to the effects of the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner; however we have reintroduced some Wych and English Elm to the Park and also another rare native tree – the Black Poplar. In future years expect to see continued diversification in tree planting, but I suspect this will not include olive groves!

In recent weeks Adam's Pond has been drained and some 600 square metres of silt have been removed. This silt has been stored in a temporary lagoon in the Sidmouth Wood and in time will be incorporated into our composting operation and used in the Park. In the meantime, the pond will have a small area of reedbed planted which should provide shelter for the ducks that try to breed there most years but which usually fall prey to dogs. The pond will be allowed to fill with rain water over the autumn and winter.

As many readers will know, the Park was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in 1992. The park is divided into a series of management units and



*"Skeleton Tree" by Harvey Weston, aged 8*

each is assessed for condition by the body now known as Natural England. They have targets set nationally for improving the condition of the nation's SSSIs. Each unit is assessed as in favourable or unfavourable condition, and then as improving, no change or declining. Adam's Pond was assessed as unfavourable and declining, and so was our highest priority for action.

Partly as a consequence of the practice in the mid 1980s of spreading sewage sludge in a bid to improve fertility, much of our grassland has also been assessed as being in unfavourable condition and we would very much like to improve it. The grazing project, which will have recommenced by the time you read this, is one way we are using to improve floral diversity and hence condition. Elsewhere we have been cutting grass for many years in the Park and removing it off site to reduce fertility, essential for the re-establishment of acid grassland.

The new horse ride opened by Princess Alexandra in September (see page 6) is particularly important as it has enabled us to close the horribly degraded ride known as Test Hill. This will be restored to open parkland over time and we hope that some of the trees on Test Hill that had suffered will recover.

# YOUNG FRIENDS OF RICHMOND PARK

by Karen Rockell

## Brain Baffler

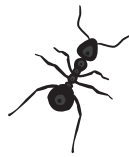
### Mystery Mammal

At night you might find me on the woodland floor or around a log pile looking for food. Complete the puzzle below and find the mystery mammal.

1			R					R	
2		O			L			S	
3			R			N			E
4			I						
5					L			E	
6		W				A			
7					G				
8						G			L
9					N				D



- I live mostly underground and leave a 'cast' behind me.
- I live under the bark of rotting logs. I breathe through gills in my legs.
- I live under logs, my wing case shines and I eat slugs and snails.
- I have 8 legs and paralyse my prey before eating it.
- My legs look like a wavy brush when I move.
- I hide in dark, dry places and live in soft woodland earth.
- I love eating flowers and upsetting gardeners!
- My larvae feed on rotting wood for 4-7 years.
- Not as many legs as my name suggests.



Hint: look on page 12 of the Summer 2008 newsletter — you may find it useful! Karen

### Fascinating Facts

#### The Woodland Floor

The woodland floor is full of valuable minerals which come from dead plant and animal material and the bedrock. These minerals help to feed the tree and are absorbed by the roots in a water solution and taken up into the tree through the Xylem tubes. Many creatures live in this habitat.

### Wander the Web

If you would like some help in identifying trees:  
<http://www.british-trees.com/guide/home.htm>

If you would like to know more about the science behind the leaves changing colour in autumn:  
<http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/813E4ECO-DB8D-4ED1-A86E-379000319ACF/0/whyleaveschangecolour.pdf>

Answers to brain baffler on page 13

## Education

by Karen Rockell

Education is an increasing priority for the Friends, not only for our members, but also for other users of the Park and the local communities around Richmond Park's borders. In particular, we are making our first focus families and children. They are the custodians who will protect the Park in the future, and we must make every effort to encourage them now.

Following the young people's photography competition (the next one will be launched early in 2009) we are planning other events to help children see the Park with new and informed eyes. Our first activities are based on looking more closely at the park: the regular Young Friends of Richmond Park page in the newsletter; the Big Draw event, for all ages; the development of family nature rambles and treasure hunts, which started on a rainy October Saturday; and our star attraction, the mobile nature table (see page 8).

For those who have not seen it yet, the nature table is an invaluable way of showing everyone the diversity of life to be found in the Park. It is fabulously "hands on" so people can pick things up and really look and feel the items, from seeds to feathers and skulls, the beautiful and the gory! When Susanna Ramsey took the collection to Latchmere Primary School, expecting to show it to just one class, they were so impressed they asked her to leave it in school all day. Four other classes went to see it (from Years 4, 5 and 6). Susanna also talked to one more class and her daughter Katie took over for another one. The head and several other teachers popped in too.



Treasure hunting in the Park

The children (and adults) were enthralled and sat in total silence while Susanna told them about some of the finds. Katie did her bit with the deer bones and other mammals. It was a brilliant experience for all.

We hope to take the nature table to more schools and other organisations to spread the word about our local nature reserve. To do this we need more helpers. Enthusiasm is vital, knowledge, for those who don't have it, will come later — Susanna won't mind my saying that a year ago she was a complete novice on matters of flora and fauna. If you are interested, please contact me on [forp@sky.com](mailto:forp@sky.com) or 07738 493 707.

As the saying goes: "From little acorns mighty oaks grow".

### Answers to puzzles on page 12

- Answers to brain baffler
- Earthworm
  - Woodlouse
  - Groundbeetle
  - Spider
  - Millipede
  - Wood Ant
  - Slug
  - Stagbeetle
  - Centipede
- Mystery Mammal: Wood Mouse  
 I'm a nocturnal mammal! I live in a hole in the ground and eat insects and spiders.

**Join Friends monthly email**

Since April, members for whom we have email addresses have been receiving a monthly email highlighting Friends activities, together with the Park and Isabella Diaries by Simon Richards and his staff. If you would like to subscribe, please email [cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk).

**Would you like to be a volunteer at the Visitor Centre?**

The Centre has two principal functions: to give information and to sell a selection of postcards, greetings cards, tea towels, shopping bags and the like.

The Centre opens on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. We are now looking to open on Mondays to Thursdays as well, and so need more volunteers. There are always two people on duty, work days are flexible, and all volunteers are given full training and a polo shirt to wear. Our experienced volunteers will be on hand to start with.

If you are interested, please contact Brian Baker on 020 8546 3109, or email [briangbaker@greenbee.net](mailto:briangbaker@greenbee.net), to arrange a weekend date and time to visit the Centre, meet experienced volunteers, and find out more about what they do.

**Changes on the Committee**

Jackie Grimes, who was responsible for marketing and was also very involved in organising our successful young people's photography competition, has resigned. Our thanks to her for the hard work and skills she brought to the Committee.

Jack Maunders has been co-opted to the Committee; subject to approval by next year's AGM, he will take over as Treasurer from John Waller, who is retiring.

**Queries about the Friends?**

For more information about The Friends of Richmond Park see our website - [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk) – or contact Brian Baker, Honorary Secretary, on 020 8546 3109.

**Subscriptions & membership**

Subscription rates: £6 individuals, £10 households and societies. All membership enquiries to Sheila Hamilton on 020 8876 2623. Application forms can be downloaded from our website [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk).

**Queries about Park Management?**

If you have any observations or concerns about the way the Park is being managed please contact Park Manager, Simon Richards at:

The Royal Parks, Holly Lodge,  
Richmond Park, Richmond, Surrey,  
TW10 5HS  
Tel: 020 8948 3209  
Fax: 020 8332 2730  
Email: [richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richmond@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk)  
Web: [www.royalparks.gov.uk](http://www.royalparks.gov.uk)

Police telephone number:  
020 7706 7272

**Friends Committee**

Chairman: Ron Crompton  
Vice-Chairmen: Peter Burrows-Smith (Walks and Courses) & Sheila Hamilton (Hon. Membership Secretary)  
Vice Presidents: Richard Carter, David McDowall, Douglas Reynolds, David Thorpe, Mary Thorpe  
Other committee members: Brian Baker (Hon. Secretary); John Collier; Alison Donaldson; Max Lankester; Jack Maunders; John Repsch; Karen Rockell (Education); John Waller (Hon. Treasurer)  
Patron: Lord Rix, CBE

**Events****Friday 14 November, 7 for 7.30pm**

The Belvedere, Pembroke Lodge

**Annual Dinner for the Holly Lodge Centre**

Tickets are £55 (Concessions £45). Further details and/or tickets from Holly Lodge, tel: 020 8948 3209, ext. 236 or 259.

Douglas Reynolds of the Friends Committee will be going and if you wish to join him at his table please let Holly Lodge know.

**Friends walks and courses****Walks**

All are welcome. Walks start at 10am from the car park and finish around midday.

Please phone Peter Burrows-Smith on 020 8392 9888 in advance if you need special support or help with the walk, and please keep dogs under control.

**\*Courses**

To be confirmed. Friends members only, £2 fee. Booking essential, phone 020 8876 2623.

See also [www.frp.org.uk/walks](http://www.frp.org.uk/walks)

Date	What and where
1 Nov, 10am	WALK: including Fungi. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.
6 Dec, 10am	WALK: including Christmas nature. Meet Kingston Gate car park.
26 Dec, 10am	WALK: Boxing Day. Meet Roehampton Gate car park.
3 Jan, 10am	WALK: including Winter Wildfowl. Meet Sheen Gate car park.
17 Jan, 10am	COURSE: Introduction to Birdwatching*
7 Feb, 10am	WALK: including Trees. Meet Pembroke Lodge car park.
21 Feb, 10am	COURSE: Introduction to Birdwatching*
7 Mar, 10am	WALK: including Pen Ponds Nature Trail. Meet Robin Hood Gate car park.
21 Mar, 10am	COURSE: Spring Birds and Bird Song*





**The Friends of Richmond Park**  
**[www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk)**

Richmond Park is  
a National Nature Reserve  
& Site of Special Scientific Interest