



# FRIENDS *of* RICHMOND PARK

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

**NEWSLETTER Spring 2011**



**Celebrating 50 years  
of the  
Friends of Richmond Park**

## Celebrating 50 years...

Welcome to this anniversary newsletter. In it we celebrate 50 years of “protecting Richmond Park’s peace and natural beauty for future generations” by “making a nuisance of ourselves” (see page 8). We also look forward to anniversary events in 2011, highlighted in the next column — and beyond.

Marilyn Mason  
marilyn.mason@virgin.net

### Congratulations

from Simon Richards, Park Manager

I am delighted that the Friends is celebrating its Golden Jubilee in 2011. The Friends is one of the largest and longest established such groups in the UK, and over the last 50 years it has contributed enormously to the Park through walks and talks, public education, volunteer work and lobbying for its protection. These benefits have stepped up in pace in recent years since the Friends and the Royal Parks have started to work together more closely in partnership. We often agree, may sometimes disagree, but we always respect the Friends’ concern for the good of the Park. Truly, the Big Society in action!

This newsletter is printed on paper which is 50% recycled, 50% from certified sustainable forests.



Please pass it on to a friend or recycle it when you have finished with it.

### Cover photo

**Front and back:** *Guide to Richmond Park* cover picture, “Deer of the Realm” by Alex Saberi, [www.alexsaberi.com](http://www.alexsaberi.com).

## ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

**Throughout the year: Focus on conservation.** See page 5.

**March: Media launch** to introduce three new Patrons and celebrate the many people who have helped the Friends over the years. See page 4.

**March: new publications** — a Friends History, Richmond Park’s first ever guidebook and a Family Trails booklet. See pages 6 - 7.

**March: Poems in the Park** poetry competition opens. See pages 11 and 12 for details.

**May: exclusive members’ tour** of the Royal Ballet School. See page 15.

**June: 50th anniversary members’ party,** Pembroke Lodge. See page 15.

**Autumn: poetry competition winners** announced.

### MEMBERS — DON'T FORGET

to use the enclosed voucher to collect your free History and discounted Guidebook from the Visitor Centre.

## The first 50 years — and the next 50

In the history of the Friends published to mark our anniversary, three themes dominate the first 50 years.

The first is simply establishing the group, providing services for members (including a first newsletter in 1963) and building its influence on decisions about the Park.

The second is combating urbanisation of the Park, whether it was pushing in the 1960s for the removal of the military camp near Kingston Gate (used as athletes’ accommodation for the 1948 Olympics) or lobbying to stop Pembroke Lodge being sold for private development in the 1990s.

The third is traffic. The Friends was founded to fight against moves to bring Park roads into the national road network (there were plans for dual carriageways through the Park!) and campaigned about traffic throughout the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. In the 1990s and early 2000s, the Friends were completely divided on traffic, internally and from the public, and almost fell apart.

What will be the themes of the next 50 years? I think the first will be the increasing visitor numbers and increasing intensity of how they use the Park. Quiet enjoyment of the Park is being replaced by running, cycling, kiting, dog walking, playing informal games and so on — all high impact activities for the ecology. If your concern is public access these are good things; if, like the Friends, your concern is for balancing them with conserving the Park, they are problems.

The second is the decline in public funding for the Royal Parks. In 1961 it

was 95% of income, now it is below 50%; by 2061 it could well be zero. The difference will be made up partly by philanthropy but mainly by commercial income: concerts, restaurants, shops, sports, toll or parking charges — take your pick.

The third is changes in the Park’s ecology and wildlife. In the last 50 years, the Park has lost the Brown Hare, Hedgehog, Water Shrew, and breeding Pheasants, Grey Partridge, Woodlark, Tree Pipit, Redstart, House and Tree Sparrow, Linnet, Bullfinch and Yellowhammer. We need to prevent the same loss in the next 50 years — in fact we need to reverse it. At the same time, climate change will favour some species and penalise others, and cause new diseases to fauna and flora.

Park management has the main responsibility for dealing with these threats, but the Friends has an important role to play in lobbying and public education about use of the Park, resisting commercialisation where it affects the Park’s ecology and its unique character, stimulating local philanthropy, and contributing volunteers and funding to conservation projects.

Over the next 50 years, our aim will be the same as it has been since 1961 — protecting and conserving the Park for future generations.

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London SW14 8JJ  
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## The first celebration



The sun came out on 27th March to help guests celebrate exactly 50 years since the inaugural meeting of the Friends of Richmond Park. Local media and dignitaries, and many others who had helped with the development of the Friends, gathered at Pembroke Lodge to look back over half a century's work.

Friends' President Lord Rix reminisced about living near the Park for 53 years, seeing sheep in the Park and paying a "Dear Leap Tax" in the early days, and welcomed three new patrons of the Friends and Park enthusiasts: Baroness Kramer of Richmond Park, former MP for Richmond Park; writer Dame Jacqueline Wilson, whose latest children's novel is set partly in the Park; and naturalist and broadcaster Sir David Attenborough, neighbour and life-long supporter of the Park.

Sir David beat even Lord Rix's long connection with Richmond Park with his 60 years of living within half a mile of the Park. He enthused about this complex and fascinating web of life on our doorstep, its positive effects on the suburban ecology, and praised the new *Guide to Richmond Park* for its emphasis on the Park's biodiversity as well as its history. Sir David made an



*Guests of honour Lord Rix and Wendy Macaulay share a joke with chairman Ron Crompton (left) while new patrons Sir David Attenborough and Baroness Kramer chat (above). Photos by Liz Coleman*

impressively smooth transition from John Lewis' historic success in securing public access to the Park to the pioneering efforts of the second guest of honour, Friends' co-founder Wendy Macaulay. Wendy spoke engagingly of the hard but ultimately rewarding work involved in establishing the Friends and their early campaigns to limit traffic speed and night-time access.

Chairman Ron Crompton thanked Daniel Hearsom of Pembroke Lodge for providing the venue and refreshments, and guests of honour, past chairmen, and all the others — "too many to name" — who had worked to sustain the Friends over the last 50 years. He then brought the story of the Friends up to the present day, officially launched the new *Guide to Richmond Park* and the "Poems in the Park" competition, commended the displays around the room and the new history of the Friends, and echoed the hope of previous chairman Lady Steyn that "when our generation passes we will leave the Park stronger and healthier..." Guests then chatted and enjoyed the displays and refreshments before drifting home to Sunday lunches and ordinary life.

## Anniversary conservation projects

Over the past two years, the Friends and the Visitor Centre have funded various conservation projects in the Park, including a new Tern raft, the creation of some small enclosures to provide ground cover for nesting birds and a beetle survey. For our 50th anniversary, we will be funding three more.

The first, "climate change trees", funded by profits from sales at the Visitor Centre, will plant a trial of 5 trees of 5 species that may be more resistant to climate change than the present native species, and will provide an alternative source of food for the deer. The likely species are Common Walnut, Black Walnut, Hickory and Indian Chestnut.

The second, "native trees", funded by the Friends, will complete the Park's collection of trees native to the British Isles. The collection will comprise 35 trees and 15 shrubs that are often thought of as trees, that is, a total of 50 to match our anniversary; the Park already has 40 or more, so we would be adding 5 to 10 species. There will also be a booklet and map, showing where good specimens of each species can be seen in the Park and saying something about each species, with the aim of education about their value.

The third project, funded by the Friends, is to build a Sand Martin nest bank at the far end of Pen Ponds near the bird hide. Similar nest banks exist in RSPB and other reserves and have proved very successful in increasing numbers of Sand Martins. There are also banks at the Barnes Wetlands Centre and on the river at Eel Pie Island, and one in the Park would create a corridor of sites for Sand Martins. The Friends' donation represents 10% match-funding for a project initiated by the Richmond Park

Bird Group and Thames Landscape Strategy.

Planting for the two tree projects will involve Friends volunteers and take place in November. The cost of the three projects is over £9,000, and we will be collecting for them throughout the anniversary events. We have also started an association with Healthy Planet, a conservation organisation with a website (<http://www.healthyplanet.org>) where people can donate to various projects; these are mainly in developing countries but we are one of two in the UK. Healthy Planet themselves have already made a generous donation to our projects.

Throughout the year, the Friends conservation volunteers will continue to work in the Park on practical projects. This winter they have been removing *Rhododendron Ponticum* where it has taken over areas such as Pen Ponds plantation and Sidmouth Wood. This work will pause during the bird breeding season starting in April, when volunteers will move to other projects for the spring and summer months, including assisting Park staff with Oak Processionary Moth detection.

*Photo of volunteers at work by Nicola Albon.*



*With thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith and Ron Crompton.*

**Guide to Richmond Park**

Despite attracting nearly 3 million visitors per year, the Park has not until now had its own guidebook, so the Friends of Richmond Park decided to fill the gap. The result is the *Guide to Richmond Park*, a compact 140 pages of useful information, nearly 300 colour photographs, a handy fold-out map, and a Foreword by Sir David Attenborough. It includes chapters on wildlife, history, ecology, trees, gardens, buildings, how the Park is managed, and how visitors can help preserve and conserve this fragile environment.

The guidebook is now on sale in local bookshops as well as at the Visitor Centre, Pembroke Lodge and via the Friends website, [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk). It costs £9.99 (with one copy at £7.00 per FRP member household — see enclosed voucher). All profits will go to Park conservation projects.

**Susanna and Katy Ramsey's *Family Trails*** (pictured right) will be published by the Friends in April/May and available in local bookshops, online and at the Visitor Centre. It describes and illustrates six trails through the Park, each taking an hour or so, with much of interest to spot along the way.

**The First 50 Years**

FRP member Mary Pollard has been researching Friends' history for some time and her, and others', hard work comes to fruition with the publication of this anniversary booklet, available free to all members (see insert). Mary and the history project team have also put together a presentation which will be shown at the Pembroke Lodge anniversary party on 29th June. The history's 48 pages of fascinating features, clippings, commentary and pictures tell of the Friends' growth, from 112 members in 1961 to 1,670 in 2010, and its ongoing activities to protect the peace and wildlife of the Park, the rationale for which was well summed up by a previous Chairman, Lady Steyn, in 1999:

"Richmond Park does not belong to us. It is timeless. In its history the Park has offered within its walls a space of peace, tranquillity and beauty; a place of recreation for many generations. And these generations have cared for it. Now the Park has passed into the hands of our generation. We in our lifetime are trustees of it... Our hope must be that when our

generation passes we will leave the Park stronger and healthier than it was at the beginning of our term. But at the least — at the very least — let us do nothing which will damage or degrade it."



Some tasters from the early years:

"As membership grew, so did their funds, which the committee started to put away, concerned that they might yet have to use the money as a 'fighting fund'... At this time the Friends were making representations to the London County Council to prevent tower blocks being built in Roehampton, and were corresponding with the Noise Abatement Society about tackling noise issues from aircraft and, later on, problems from helicopter traffic."

"Five years after its formation, it was with great delight that many members of the Friends attended a ceremony on July 20 1966 to celebrate the restoration of the site of the former WRAC camp near Kingston Gate to parkland some 28 years on from its installation."

"As long as the Park speed limit remained at 30mph a high number of deer were still being killed in car accidents. Records for 1969 tell of sixteen car-related deaths in the first quarter alone."

"The trees of the Park suffered from pests in the 1970s, with many hundreds ravaged by Dutch Elm disease. The Friends supported the 'Plant a Tree in '73' campaign, and helped the Park authorities with the replacing of a number of damaged specimens."

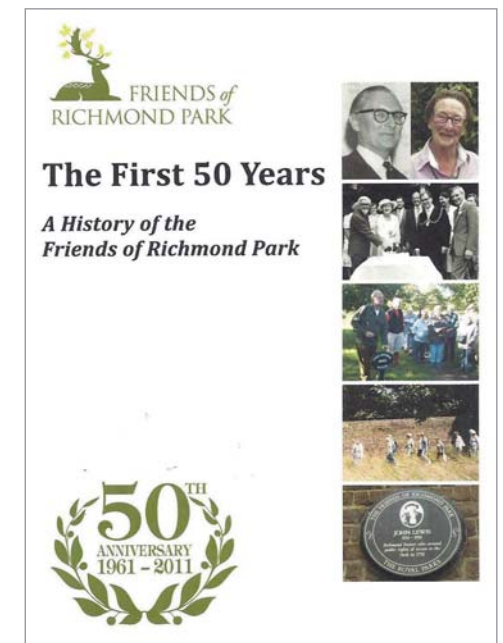
"In the battle to control traffic it was easy to forget the Friends' other objectives, but in the autumn of 1975 Gerald Jameson-Green drew attention to the fragility of birdlife in the Park and the need to be alert to preservation needs even at the cost of slight personal inconveniences."

"At the end of 1984 the Friends were invited to co-operate with the BBC in

planning a documentary programme to be called 'A Day in the Life of Richmond Park'... although it was felt by a number of people that the finished product, aired in April 1985, did not reflect the full depth of the Park's community and its everyday life." (See also page 10.)

"The Friends celebrated the 350th anniversary of the walling-in of the Park with a walk around its boundary in May 1987. Nearly 150 people gathered to participate in the 'Walk the Wall' event, and to celebrate the act that preserved this unique place for future generations."

"The Friends of Richmond Park was, from the start, a sociable group... Mrs Callis (later Jameson-Green), the first membership secretary, also managed many social events, and was to handle the role right up until February 1986 — an astonishing achievement!"



## Wendy Macaulay

I happened to visit Wendy Macaulay on the day after plans to charge for car parking in Richmond Park were dropped, and was the first to break the news to her. "I am so delighted," she said. "We must keep the Park free for everyone to enjoy its peace and beauty." At 86, Wendy is the sole survivor of the group who founded the Friends of Richmond Park half a century ago, and the news triggered a flood of memories of the group's origins in another traffic issue.

In 1960 the Minister of Works, Lord John Hope, raised the Park speed limit from 20 to 30 mph and allowed traffic to enter the Park for a few hours after dark. These changes, said Wendy in a letter inviting interested parties to a meeting at the Station Hotel, Richmond, "are the first steps in a series which if not checked at the outset, will in the end spell the ruin of Richmond Park as we know it." The idea of forming a group to mobilise local opinion against the proposals came to Wendy while talking to her friend Mary Gueritz in the greengrocer's near her house in Rosemont Road, Richmond. Lt. Col John Gueritz, Mary's husband, was elected chairman of the new group.

"We soon attracted amazing support from people who, like us, loved the Park and wanted to keep it unspoilt," says Wendy. Among them were influential figures such as Richmond MP Anthony Royle, Reg Ward, editor of the *Richmond & Twickenham Times*, and Tom Foley, secretary of the Pedestrians' Association. At a debate in the House of Commons attended by Wendy, Anthony Royle clashed with the Minister, who saw the Friends as "people making a nuisance of themselves"! The result was a compromise:

## Michael Davison

after-dark opening was scrapped, but the speed limit was raised to 30 mph, as it remained until 2004.

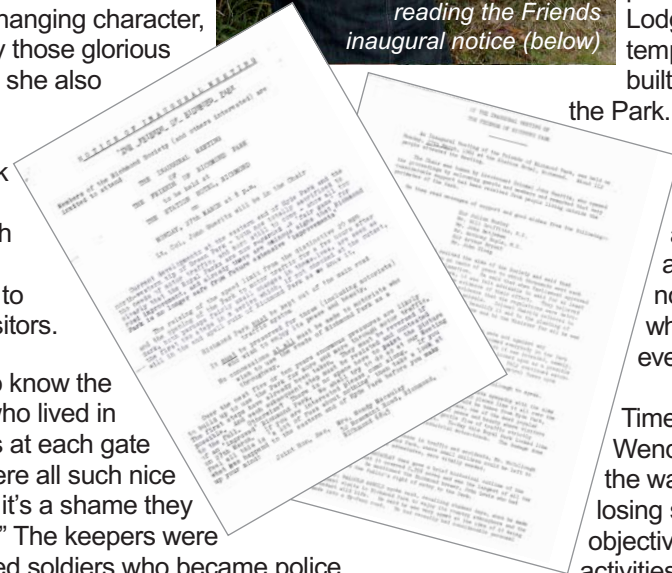
Not that Wendy is opposed to use of the Park by motorists. "It's a place for recreation," she says, "and people must be allowed to enjoy themselves in different ways." Wendy does not feel the Park is overused: "There are vast areas where you can walk and see no sign of a car." She loves the Park for its unchanging character, "especially those glorious trees", but she also has many memories of the Park in earlier days which will be unfamiliar to today's visitors.

"We got to know the keepers who lived in the lodges at each gate — they were all such nice people — it's a shame they had to go." The keepers were often retired soldiers who became police officers, and had powers to stop and charge speeding motorists. "We would go and back them up in Mortlake court."

Among Wendy's earliest memories is being taken by her parents to the Park to watch Crystal Palace burning in 1936. The family would go to hear the bands which played at the bandstand near



Wendy in her garden reading the Friends inaugural notice (below)



Richmond Gate, and if the wind was in the right direction they could even hear the music from their garden on Richmond Hill.

At a time when cows grazed in part of the Park, Wendy remembers one occasion in her twenties when she grabbed a cow by its horns to stop it harming a child who had strayed too close.

During the Second World War when there was only limited public access, Wendy remembers walking along the path towards Pembroke Lodge and seeing the lines of temporary billets which were built to house military units in the Park. She saw Pen Ponds drained and camouflaged with netting to prevent their use as a navigational aid by enemy bombers, and recalls the "incredibly noisy" anti-aircraft guns which were active in the Park every night.

Times have changed, and Wendy is full of admiration for the way the Friends, while not losing sight of its primary objective, has broadened its activities to "spread the word" of the Park's glories to a wider audience. It is easy to take organisations like the Friends for granted, forgetting that without the far-sighted vision of people like Wendy they would not exist. We are privileged to have a founder-member still with us to remind us how our large organisation had such small beginnings in a Richmond greengrocer's shop.

## FRIENDS CHAIRMEN 1961 - TODAY

Col John Gueritz  
September 1961 to April 1974

Gerald Jameson-Green  
April 1974 to April 1980

John Martin  
April 1980 to April 1981

Leslie Freeman  
April 1981 to April 1984

Rodney Coyne  
April 1984 to May 1988

Roy Smith  
May 1988 to April 1993

Douglas Reynolds  
April 1993 to May 1999

Howard Stafford  
May 1999 to September 1999

Douglas Reynolds  
September 1999 to March 2000

Lady Susan Steyn  
March 2000 to April 2000

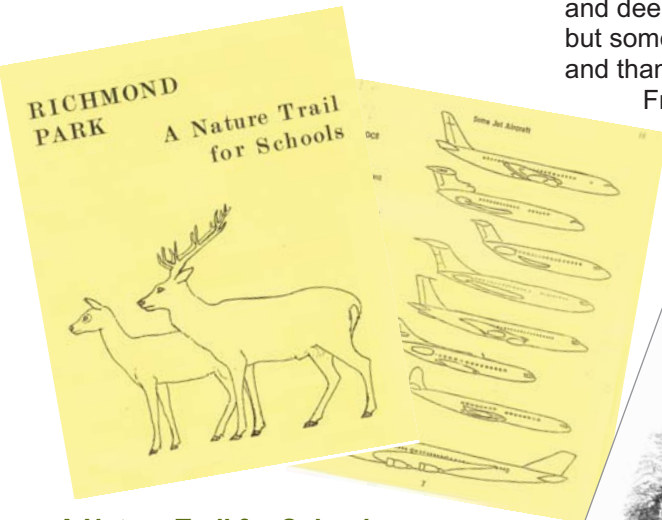
Richard Carter  
April 2000 to May 2003

John Repsch  
May 2003 to April 2004

John Collier  
April 2004 to April 2007

Ron Crompton  
April 2007 to present

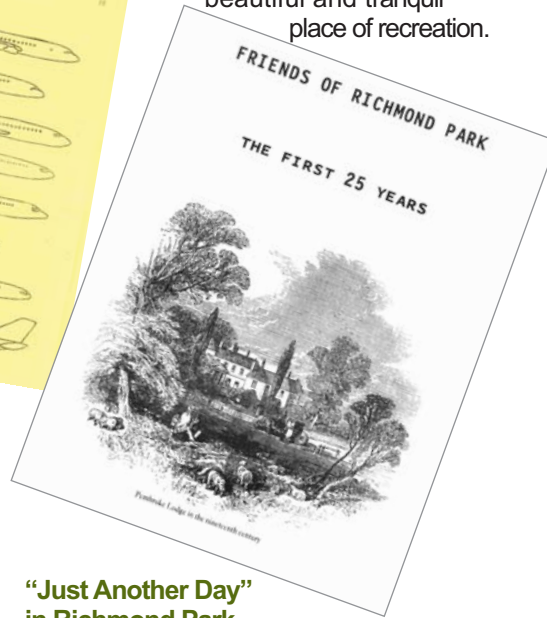
## Publications past



**A Nature Trail for Schools**, a distant ancestor of the new Family Trail booklet, was published before desk-top publishing and affordable colour printing, and featured line drawings and, amongst other activities for pupils, aircraft spotting.

**The First 25 Years** is another souvenir of the days (not so fondly remembered by this editor) when errors meant extensive retyping, choice of fonts was very limited, layouts were done with scissors and cow-gum, and colour illustration was too expensive to even contemplate. In fact, illustration of any kind is absent from this booklet apart from the elegant old print used on the cover. As *50 Years of the Friends of Richmond Park* confirms, the first 25 years were in many ways not so very different from today: many of the challenges to the Park's peaceful natural character, such as traffic and aircraft noise, have been with us from the beginning; the landscape, the veteran Oaks and the deer exist now as then (though the Oaks are even older

and deer are less often killed by cars, but sometimes, nowadays, by litter too); and thanks partly to the activities of the Friends, the Park remains a beautiful and tranquil place of recreation.



### “Just Another Day” in Richmond Park

Member John A W Lock sent us a *Times* review by Peter Ackroyd of the 1985 BBC programme about the Park, “by London but not of it, rural in spirit but quite without the tedium of Nature in its rawer state,” Ackroyd comments, before noting that the Park was not quite as quiet as as the presenter claimed, as within 30 minutes “we saw a resident artist, two Japanese ladies looking for nuts, a gaggle of infant dancers, sportsmen, school parties, a disabled racer who plays the bagpipes at twilight, a number of squirrel- and pigeon- fanciers, and a man who records the sounds of the variety of birds, which no doubt, like the humans, think of this place as specifically their own.”

## Poems in the Park

You may be familiar with these 18th century lines of verse:

“Think of the Bard who dwelt in yonder dell  
Who sang so sweetly what he loved so well,  
Think, as ye gaze on there luxuriant bowers  
Here Thomson loved the sunshine and the flowers.”

Or perhaps your tastes are a little more contemporary:

“I could be a lawyer with stratagems and muses  
I could be a doctor with poultices and bruises  
I could be a writer with a growing reputation  
I could be the ticket-man at Fulham  
Broadway station.”

The first is an extract from John Heneage Jesse’s eulogy to James Thomson (poet and lyricist of “Rule Britannia”) while the latter is from a song by musician and poet Ian Dury. What they share are memorials to their work in Poet’s Corner in Pembroke Lodge Gardens.

Poems in the Park is a competition to mark the 50th Anniversary by challenging people to be inspired by the Park and write about it. The competition, publicised through *The Richmond Magazine* and *The Kingston Magazine*, is open to people of all ages and hopes to encourage a wide entry from people throughout the three boroughs bordering the Park.

As well as judges from within the Friends and the Editor of *The Richmond Magazine*, Richard Nye, we are very happy that the hugely popular

*Richard Gray*



*Dame Jacqueline Wilson, judge of the competition and a big fan of the Park*

award-winning children’s author, Dame Jacqueline Wilson DBE, FRSL has agreed to be our head judge. She is delighted to be associated with the competition, and told us: “I’ve written about Richmond Park in my books, and when I want to unwind after a morning’s hard work, I’ll make for the Park.”

Poems in the Park is now open for entries, and details on how to enter are on the next page. The winners will not only win prizes but will have their works displayed in Poet’s Corner in Pembroke Lodge Gardens.

The FRP is extremely grateful to solicitors Russell-Cooke who are sponsoring the competition and who usually sponsor the photographic competition which is taking this year off.

**RUSSELL-COOKE SOLICITORS**

## POEMS IN THE PARK

### Entry requirements

- \* Not more than a single side of A4
- \* Rhyming or non-rhyming poems, in any accepted poetry format
- \* Poems inspired by Richmond Park or any aspect thereof (environment, wildlife, aesthetic appeal, personal experience, specific locations within the Park...)
- \* Age (in one of these three categories) to be stated: 19+, 13-18, Under-12. (Within the younger age categories, consideration will be given to the age of the entrant.)
- \* Entries to: Poems in the Park, Sheengate Publishing, Unit A4, Kingsway Business Park, Oldfield Rd, Hampton, Middlesex TW12 2HD; or by email, marked "Poems in the Park", to: [editorial@sheengate.co.uk](mailto:editorial@sheengate.co.uk).
- \* Full name and contact phone number to be included.
- \* Those aged 18 or under and entering via school should also indicate their age and the name of their school, class teacher and local council.
- \* Entries close 15 July. Winners will be announced in the autumn
- \* Prizes and awards include: a trophy for each category winner; a certificate for each category and runner-up and other prizes.

### Cattle grazing trials

Grazing trials in the enclosure near Holly Lodge have been going on every winter for the past four years, with five cattle there this winter. The hoped-for improvements to the grassland, flora and insects from grazing traditional breeds in low densities are already becoming evident on the trial site, and Park Management is currently considering the options for further cattle grazing.

### Oak Processionary Moth

The active Oak Processionary Moth season is almost upon us. The eggs of the moth hatch on Oak trees towards the end of April, and the caterpillars eventually pupate into adult moths in July. The older caterpillars have hairs which can cause unpleasant rashes, skin and eye irritations, respiratory problems and other severe allergic reactions. This invasive pest was first found in Richmond Park in 2009 and if the population were allowed to grow it could cause severe defoliation of the Park Oaks. Management involves searching for nests in early summer and their removal by specialist operatives before the adult moths emerge. In 2010, volunteers and staff located 302 nests for removal. If you would like to help with this vital work in 2011, please contact Gillian Jonusas on [gjonusas@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:gjonusas@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk) or 07785 346 230.

### Our very own deer

The Friends adopted a Park deer during *The Richmond Magazine* Deer Appeal ([www.royalparcsfoundation.org](http://www.royalparcsfoundation.org)), and the thank you letter included: "We are very much aware of the Friends of Richmond Park and appreciate all the hard work you do to conserve Richmond Park. Your website is really good too!"

### Isabella Access Project

The Royal Parks has successfully secured £164k from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund to develop plans for improvements to accessibility of the Isabella Plantation, including upgrades to the paths, improved entrance gates, signage and visitor facilities, environmental and ecological projects, and community activities.

### Snow in the Park

Snow in December caused some disruption to the Park again this year, with frozen pipes closing some toilet blocks, and staff having to prioritise clearing and gritting the most used routes. Tobogganing and skiing was fun but caused a few broken bones. A little winter weather did not stop the Friends walk pictured below.



### Olympics in the Park

As most readers will have heard, the Olympics road cycling events will pass through Richmond Park, the men's race on July 28 and the women's on July 29. Both will enter Richmond Park at Roehampton Gate and exit at Richmond Gate before going on to Box Hill; they will return via Kingston Gate, go to Richmond Gate and then to Roehampton Gate to exit there (full route at <http://tinyurl.com/6ffhxul>). On the way out, the peloton will be close together and may only take a few

minutes to cross the Park; on the way back, it may be strung out and take 20-30 minutes to cross the Park. There will be as many as 50 support vehicles in attendance. The event will be free to spectators and the Park will be closed all day to traffic. There will be barricades along each side of the roads with stewarding of spectators but no stands or large screens, and limited media facilities at the top of Sawyers Hill.

Our main concerns are how the deer will be handled to keep them away from the roads, how the large crowds will be managed to avoid damage to the Park's ecology, and what restoration and legacy will be paid for by the organisers. We have met the London Olympics Committee once and expect more meetings in the next few months. There will be a full trial event on August 14 this year.

### Policing the Park

Large cuts are being made in policing all the Royal Parks, with total manpower being cut from 162 to 109 over the next four years, the majority of the cuts being in the lower grade PCSOs and admin. The outer parks, including Richmond, will lose their response teams (6 PCs in Richmond) with those duties being covered by the Richmond borough force. The Safer Parks Team (who police the Park regulations) of one sergeant and seven PCs/PCSOs will be retained. The good news is that the SPT will be strengthened in that the 2 PCSO posts will become the higher grade PCs with their increased enforcement capability, and, most importantly, there will be much greater staffing at week-ends and bank holidays when police are most needed.

*With thanks to Peter Burrows-Smith, Ron Crompton, Michael Davison, Gillian Jonusas, Park Assistant Arboriculturist, and Richmond Park Management.*

**Membership and Gift Aid**

We have claimed over £1000 under the Gift Aid scheme in the first year of operation, which is very good news. 52% of members have now signed Gift Aid mandates. If you haven't already done so, now is your opportunity, as we'd like to be able to claim back even more to reinvest in the Park. Forms can be downloaded from [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk) or requested from me (see below).

Thank you very much to all of you who have generously made donations along with your membership renewals. All donations are most welcome and will be put to good use. Final reminder notices are enclosed with this newsletter for those who have still to respond.

Subscriptions: £6 for individuals, £10 for households and societies. All membership enquiries to me on 020 886 2623.

*Sheila Hamilton, Hon Membership Secretary*

**Queries about the Friends?**

See [www.frp.org.uk](http://www.frp.org.uk), or contact Max Lankester, Hon. Secretary, on 020 8940 7898 or [max.lankester@frp.org.uk](mailto:max.lankester@frp.org.uk).

**Friends monthly email**

If you would like to subscribe to our monthly email please email [cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:cottonbarbara@yahoo.co.uk), including your postcode.

**WANTED - VOLUNTEERS**

to help for a day or half a day on Friends stalls at one or more of: Richmond May Fair (14 May); Ham Fair (11 June); Kew Fete (18 June); Barnes Fair (9 July). You would be part of a team led by a Committee member, talking to people about the Friends and the Park — interesting and rewarding work. Please contact [ron.crompton@frp.org.uk](mailto:ron.crompton@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: 0300 061 2200 Email: [richmond@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richmond@royalparcs.gsi.gov.uk) Website: [www.royalparcs.gov.uk](http://www.royalparcs.gov.uk)

**Police non-emergency telephone number:** 0300 123 1212**Trustees:**

**Chairman:** Ron Crompton

**Vice-Chairmen:** Peter Burrows-Smith (Walks and Courses), Sheila Hamilton (Hon. Membership Secretary)

**Other Trustees:** Nick Coleman (50th anniversary), Teresa Grafton (Education), Richard Gray (Marketing), P J Greeves (Events), Rachel Hirschler\* (Visitor Centre), John Karter (Press and Publications), Max Lankester (Hon. Secretary), Jack Maunders (Hon. Treasurer), to be succeeded by David McLaughlin\*

**Vice-Presidents:** Brian Baker\*, Richard Carter, John Collier\*, David McDowall, John Repsch, Douglas Reynolds, Mary Thorpe, John Waller

**President:** Lord Rix, CBE

**Patrons:** Sir David Attenborough, Dame Jacqueline Wilson, Baroness Kramer of Richmond Park

*\*To be approved by the AGM*

**Friends walks and courses****WALKS**

All welcome. Most, though not all, walks are on Saturdays and start at 10.00am from a car park.

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 are typically a 30-minute talk at Pembroke Lodge followed by a 2-hour walk. Courses are for Friends members only and places must be booked — please contact Sue on 0208 549 8975 or [sue.gibbons@npl.co.uk](mailto:sue.gibbons@npl.co.uk). Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

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

There are also free guided walks in Isabella Plantation led by Park staff throughout the year. These walks last about one and a half hours and are publicised on Park notice boards.

Date	Time	What and where
2 April	10.00am	WALK: meet at Roehampton Gate car park
23 April	<u>8.00am</u>	WALK: <b>Spring Birds</b> . Meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
2 May ( <u>Mon</u> )	<u>5.00am</u>	WALK: <b>Bird Dawn Chorus</b> . Meet at Sheen Gate.
7 May	10.00am	WALK: meet at Broomfield Hill car park
21 May	10.00am	COURSE: <b>Park Wildlife*</b>
4 June	10.00am	WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park
18 June	10.00am	COURSE: <b>Trees*</b>
2 July	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
9 July	10.00am	COURSE: <b>Butterflies*</b>
16 July	<u>8.30pm</u>	WALK: <b>Summer Evening</b> . Meet at Sheen Gate car park.

**Other events**

Sat 30 April	Friends of Richmond Park AGM — see enclosure.
Thurs 19 May	Exclusive members' tour of White Lodge. This popular event, previously announced to members, is now heavily over-subscribed so a draw will select the lucky guests.
Wed 29 June	50th members' anniversary party, Pembroke Lodge, including exhibits on the history of the FRP, wildlife and conservation projects and speeches by the FRP chairman and Wendy Macaulay, co-founder of the Friends. Applications now closed.





FRIENDS of  
RICHMOND PARK

Registered charity No. 1133201

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

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