



FRIENDS *of*
RICHMOND PARK

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

SPRING 2013



Valuing the Park

Discovering the Park

Poster competition results

Wildlife updates

Jacqueline Wilson on the Park

Welcome

Despite the wintry nature of some of our photos, this spring issue celebrates the coming of warmer weather, as well as the Park, its wildlife, its people and the work of the Friends. If you would like to contribute to that work we highlight some opportunities on this page – and if you would like to help in any way with the newsletter (writing, editing, layout...) do please get in touch with me.

With many thanks to trustee Max Lankester who very ably and speedily proof-read recent issues of this newsletter, and to member Sally Wood, who has just taken over this task.

Marilyn Mason
editor@frp.org.uk

SUMMER FAIRS – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As usual, the Friends will be setting up a stall at three of the local Summer Fairs:

Richmond on Saturday May 11
Ham on Saturday June 8
St Margarets on Saturday 13 July

The objective is to inform the public of the work that is being carried out by the Friends to protect Richmond Park, as a place of natural beauty and public pleasure. Additionally, we try to recruit new members and sell our latest publications.

We operate a morning and an afternoon shift. If you are interested in helping, please contact Karen Scott by email, events@frp.org.uk, or telephone, 020 8546 2480.

Looking forward to some summer fun!

PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

We now have email addresses for more than 65% of our members, who receive a monthly email containing: the latest news of the Park and the Friends; the Park Diary and Isabella Diary written by The Park Management; the Friends and Isabella Walks programme; notice of events in the Park or publications about the Park. Try it for a while and see what you think – you can always unsubscribe!

Please email Roy Berriman at royberriman@yahoo.co.uk with your name, postcode and email address.

Please note that we never give details of our members, including email addresses, to anyone else.

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.

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Cover photos:

Front cover: Summer bucks by Andy Gulland

Back cover: Red Deer stag in the snow by Jan Wilczur

The value of the Park

My Chairman's Letters tend to be about threats to the Park or the need to protect it. This time I want to celebrate it and the value it has for all of us.

The Park's peace and tranquillity restore our well-being and sanity, its wonderful views delight us, its fresh air and open grassland seem to purify us, and its fauna and flora fascinate us and make us feel connected to nature. How should we value these benefits? Partly, of course, by how we feel after visiting the Park. But maybe also by being hard-nosed and quantifying that value.

As far as health and sanity are concerned, research shows that nature has a positive impact on mood, concentration, mental fatigue, self-discipline and physiological stress, and helps children suffering from Attention Deficit Disorder.

A large UK study found that all groups, irrespective of income, have an improvement in health in direct proportion to their access to green space, with the biggest benefit to lower income groups. Where people have good access to green space, they are 24% more likely to be physically active; those who don't are 27% more likely to be overweight or obese.

The delightful views can also be valued. Research in the Netherlands showed that merely overlooking a normal urban park increases property values by 10% (it may be considerably more in the area of Richmond Park!).

If the fresh air and open grassland seem to purify us, they also purify the

climate. The 130,000 trees in the Park absorb the carbon dioxide we create; the landscape retains water rather than creating run-off as our streets do; and the woodlands and grassland cool the surrounding urban space.

Valuing biodiversity – the fauna and flora – is more difficult. Usually, people point to the medicines and materials that have been derived from the natural world, such as aspirin. We also have a vague feeling that we have a duty of care, as the most developed species, for all the species on the planet. But biodiversity can also have a direct value for us. A recent study in Sheffield found that the psychological benefits gained by visitors to urban green spaces increased with their biodiversity, indicating that "greenness" alone is not sufficient. You only have to compare Richmond Park with a local park whose biodiversity stretches only to wildfowl or garden flowers to feel that this must be true.

The National Ecosystem Assessment, published last year, estimates that the difference between properly caring for green spaces, both urban and rural, and neglecting them is worth £50 billion a year or almost £1,000 per person – something to think about when you are next admiring the views in the Park.

Ron Crompton
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Royal Parks Blog

When she became Chief Executive of The Royal Parks last year, Linda Lennon started a blog of her experiences and impressions of the various Parks. The blog (www.royalparcs.org.uk/blog) now has guest writers, including Assistant Park Managers Adam Curtis, on how Richmond Park coped with the snow, and Jo Scrivener, on "The problem with Ponticum" in Isabella. Nigel Reeve (The Royal Park's ecologist) also writes about "The ecology of our parks".

Police buggy



Since the autumn the police have been using a new golf-type buggy (*pictured above*). It was left over from the Olympics, and its light weight and large tyres make it very good for going into areas of grassland and woodland where the normal large and heavy police vehicles would be too big or cause damage. The Park's police don't yet know whether they will be able to keep it, but we hope so!

Works in the Park

Many Friends will have noticed a variety of works in the Park over the last few months. In all there are about 25 improvements, due to be completed by the time you read this, funded by

better than expected revenue from "Winter Wonderland" and lower than expected expenditure on post-Olympics restoration. The works include re-painting some Gates, improvements to some toilet blocks (which will soon be concessioned to a private operator), improvements to some mobile kiosks and the Roehampton Gate café (which have been re-concessioned), some repairs on car park surfaces, refurbishment of more of the riding track, restoration of the shared path from Pembroke Lodge to Ham Cross, and traffic-calming at Pembroke Lodge. This is in addition to the completion of the new golf courses and the Isabella Plantation improvements. It has been a very busy time!

But rain stopped work...

Though the wet and muddy conditions cause few problems for wildlife, one of the wettest winters on record played havoc with work on the Park's ponds and streams. The unusually large water flow from Pen Ponds into Jubilee Pond caused the retaining bank to the side of the headwall to break, which will need to be repaired and reinforced when the wet weather subsides. Ham Gate and Ham Dip Ponds, which were drained and sprayed in the autumn, have now filled again; fortunately the next stage of the work is not due until late summer.



The restoration work on the ponds in Isabella Plantation started on schedule in early January, but the delivery lorries and excavation equipment quickly churned up the waterlogged ground (*see below left*), and the contractors had to bring in a cover of gravel, which will have to be removed (at their expense) once the work is finished. The Isabella ponds and streams work should be completed by the time you read this.

"Tiffany across the Water"

Last year, Tiffany donated \$1.25m to the Royal Parks to restore or replace many of the water features in the Park. As part of that programme, the water troughs at Ladderstile Gate and Roehampton Gate have been restored, using experts from the Metropolitan Drinking Fountain and Cattle Trough Association. The work included cleaning the granite troughs, replacing the water pipes, upgrading the plumbing and drainage system and setting the Ladderstile Gate trough onto a new base.

Holly Lodge news

The Holly Lodge Centre, the independent charity located in the Park, has a new look. The Centre provides a hands-on experience of the Park for children from special needs and mainstream schools.

Its new logo (*see above right*) incorporates the familiar symbols of the Park: the veteran oak, stag, woodpecker, beetle and butterflies, and soaring above it all a kestrel. The colours are the traditional brown and green of the Park. It also shows the educational purpose of the Centre, with a book, an owl, and the strapline below (the "special" referring to both the Park and special needs). The tree is shown in full growth, bursting with energy and

reaching to the sky, reflecting the Centre's mission to inspire young people to grow and flourish.

Over the next year, the Centre is updating its communications to supporters, donors, schools and the public, including the new logo and a new website. It would like two or three volunteers to help the effort. Past experience or skills in graphics, writing, publicity/PR, websites or social media is useful but not essential – more important is a willingness to do what is needed! Much of the work can be done at home. Contact Joan Braune at jbraune@thehollylodgecentre.org.uk or on 020 8940 8730.

Park wins awards

The new St Paul's tercentenary gates in Richmond Park (featured in our Summer 2012 issue) have been awarded a Richmond Society plaque, as "a work which, by its design and quality, would take its place in the canon of local architecture..." Bishops Lodge, on the edge of the Park, was commended for the "sensitive and practical manner" of its restoration and modernisation by The Royal Parks.

The Park on television

BBC's "Countryfile" featured the Park in January, with an item about felling the non-native Turkey Oaks in the Park to make way for extra planting of native species.



Celebrating our volunteers

Was it the coffee and pastries, or the unusual sunshine, or just the opportunity to get together that brought crowds of volunteers to Pembroke Lodge one Saturday morning in December for a celebration of their work? Whatever the attraction, the event focused on the multitude of events and activities – in conservation, education, history, wildlife, informing visitors – that Friends had helped with during 2012, and Peter Burrows-Smith and Ron Crompton thanked volunteers for the time they had given to the Park, for which both the Friends and Park Management were very grateful. Though last year, with the Jubilee and the Olympics, had been a particularly busy one, there was always plenty to do and yet more opportunities for this year were on offer. If you would like to help with one of the Friends' many activities, meeting like-minded people and having fun at the same time, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator at volunteers@frp.org.uk.

Friends on the Web

Thank you to the 230+ people who have "Liked" our Facebook page, and particularly to everyone who has contributed, commented and shared with us. Remember, you don't have to be signed up to Facebook to view the page, which is at www.facebook.com/thefriendsofrichmondpark. For more detailed information, including some archived articles from this newsletter, have a look at our website www.frp.org.uk.

One of our volunteers, Robert Smith, has been doing a splendid job of developing the Richmond Park

Wikipedia page. This public web page gives a comprehensive outline of the many features of Richmond Park, including a section on the Friends, and it has recently been augmented with information on Park history, which he has developed in conjunction with Robert Wood, another volunteer who is researching Richmond Park's past as part of our History Project. They have brought the results of some very interesting work into the public domain for everyone to share. You can read their work at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Richmond_Park.

Roehampton Gate development opposed

The Friends, along with The Royal Parks and Richmond Council (which has planning responsibility for the Park), have objected strongly to a proposed residential development just by Roehampton Gate. The new building would be large and high, and clearly seen from the Park, especially in winter. We were also very concerned about light pollution from the high-level windows facing the Park.

Deer tags

Member Jack Birrell spotted a deer that appeared to have litter attached to its head in October and reported it to Park Management, to be told that some baby deer have been ear-tagged with blue plastic discs to help staff ascertain their age in future years. So if you see something similar, no need to act, it's just part of monitoring the Park's wild life!

With thanks to Jack Birrell, Jeff Bull, Ron Crompton, Rachel Hirschler, Park Management and the Richmond Society for news items.

Friends Solve Chinese Picture Puzzle Robert Wood

Recently, volunteers from our History Project uncovered an unusual interpretation of the Park, drawn by a Chinese artist and published in 1938.

The story began when one of the Friends' volunteers was cataloguing documents in the Hearsom Collection of items relating to the Park's history, which is held in Pembroke Lodge. A greetings card from the 1930s (*pictured below*) displayed an unusual picture of the deer, depicted in a distinctively Chinese style. Further research revealed that the artist was Chiang Yee who wrote and illustrated several books while living in Britain between 1933 and 1955. He was a notable writer and artist of his time and the subject of a small exhibition at the Victoria & Albert Museum last year.



Our investigations confirmed that this picture appeared in his book "The Silent Traveller in London". The discovery prompted Daniel Hearsom to acquire a first edition of the book, and so the Friends helped not only to catalogue the Collection but also to enrich it!

To bring this story to a wider public audience, its details were added to the Wikipedia article on Richmond Park, where a range of international links are being verified and compiled by volunteers (see previous page). Further stories arising from our historical work are being shared through the Friends' Facebook page.

The History Project enables volunteers to participate in varied and interesting activities, from undertaking primary research, to cataloguing historic artefacts and documents, working with a growing private collection and sharing discoveries through new media for the benefit of all.

The Queen's "Pleasant Wilderness", another view

John Cloake, President of Richmond Local History Society, wrote in response to the History feature in our Autumn newsletter to tell us that "the retreat described by the poet in 1732 was not the White Lodge nor anywhere in the present Richmond Park, but the Hermitage in Richmond Gardens. These were the northern part of the Richmond Park created by King James I, the southern part of which is now known as the Old Deer Park..." For more on this fascinating rustic retreat, see John Cloake's "Palaces and Parks of Richmond and Kew", Volume 2 (Philimore, 1996).

DISCOVERERS

For families exploring Richmond Park



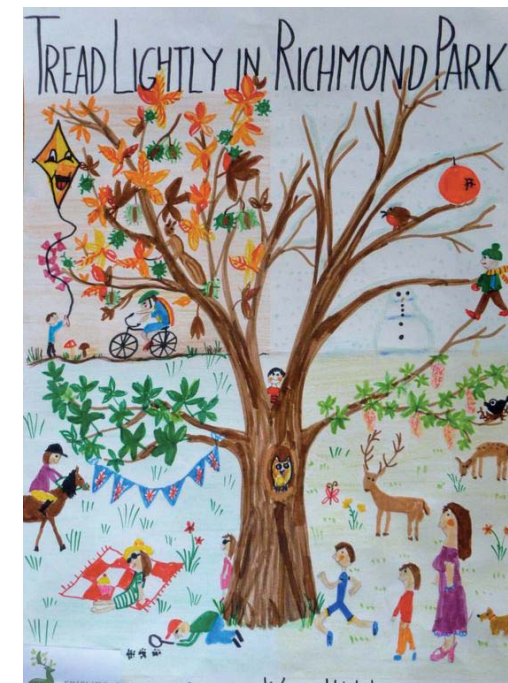
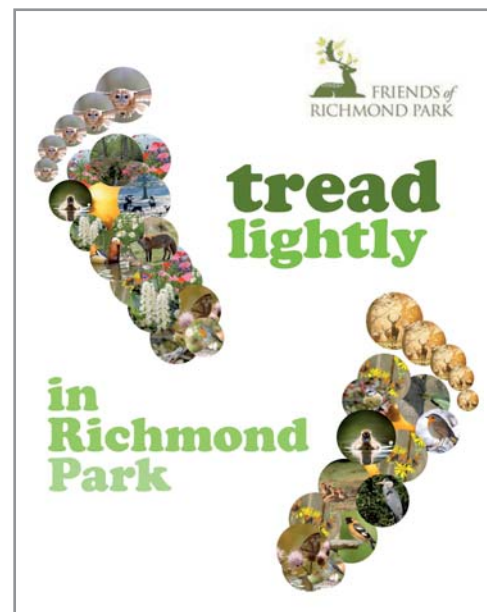
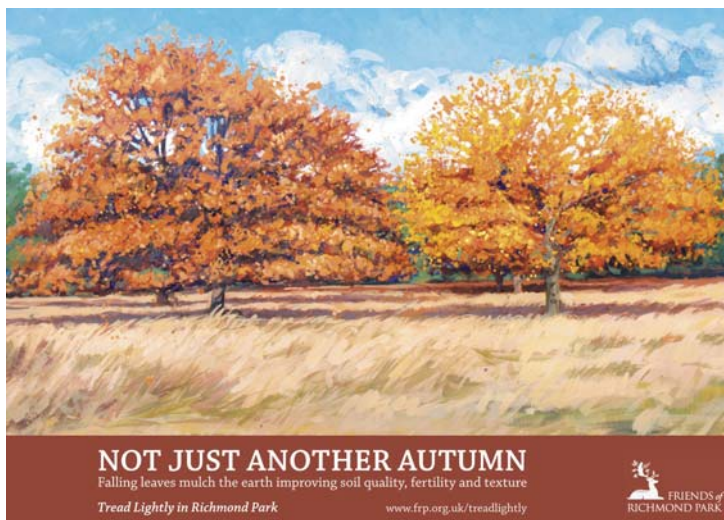
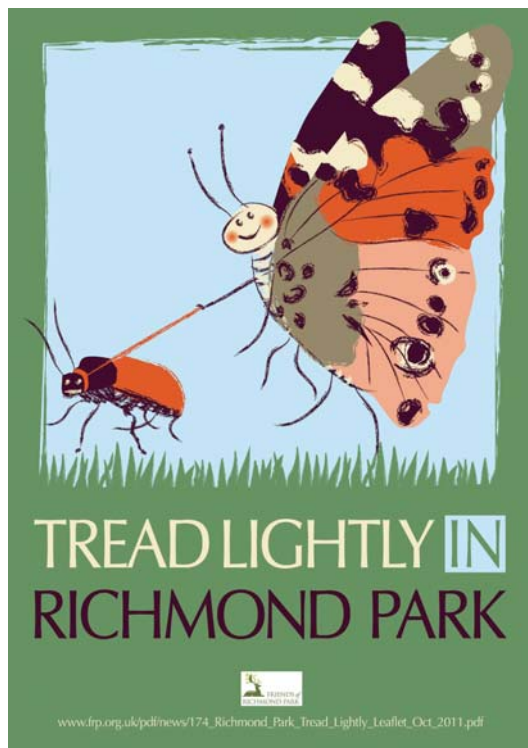
Discoverers is now one year old, with a growing mailing list of more than 60 families. During 2012 we ran three events and were a regular feature on the Friends' Facebook page. We now have our own web pages, www.discoverers.frp.org.uk, from where the Isabella Plantation Trail leaflet can be downloaded for independent use. We have also started to make links with local primary schools – see comments from Year 6 pupils at Latchmere School, Kingston, on the Park's introduction of fines for dog fouling, off-path cycling and littering, on our website "My Park" page.

We have a challenging remit. Children today do not enjoy the opportunities for unsupervised play outside the home that previous generations took for granted. Last year, the then chief of the National Trust called on grandparents to help turn "cotton-wool kids" into "free-range kids". The National Trust's "50 Things to Do Before You're 11?" (www.50things.org.uk) invites children to "Climb a Tree" or "Dam a Stream". The Woodland Trust's worksheets (www.woodlandtrust.org.uk) are similarly designed to get children active. But Richmond Park's conservation status means that visitors are urged to "Tread Lightly", and not to remove items, build dens or climb trees.

So, what can Discoverers do? We create opportunities for investigation, exploration and fun, as well as an awareness of Richmond Park as a special place. Its trees currently face a number of threats, and so 2013 will be Discoverers' "Year of the Tree", starting with a guided walk and workshop led by a local artist. Later activities will focus on linked topics such as birds, fungi and insect life. We welcome imaginative ideas and support from Friends to help this sapling grow strong.

Teresa Grafton, discoverers@frp.org.uk

"Posters in the Park" competition winners



As always, it was hard to pick winners from the many and varied entries for our poster competition, some of which feature on this page and will be seen around the Park. Ultimately, the judges had to choose designs that would work well as posters and convey the "Tread Lightly" message clearly and immediately, which meant that some attractive and well executed artwork didn't quite make it.

The impressive short-listed entries were: Cristian Bratu (Royal Ballet School, aged 13); Amy Dobinson (Royal Ballet School, aged 13); Amba Suma (aged 13); and Jake Walker (Royal Ballet School, aged 13). You can see these at frp.org.uk/friends/competitions.

Special commendations in their age groups went to Elena Vlassova (Ibstock Place, aged 8, *bottom right*) and Tim Pond (Adult, *bottom left*).

And the overall winners were Kim Spickett (Adult, *top left*), Olivia Ecclestone (aged 11, *above centre*), and Olivia Staniaszek (St Elizabeth Catholic School, aged 9, *top right*).

Well done, all!



Oak Processionary Moth update

Gillian Jonusas, Park Arboriculturist

The sight of tree climbers clad in protective suits working from elevated platforms to remove the nests of the invasive insect pest Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) has become a familiar sight in Richmond Park in June and July each year. In 2012 four nest removal teams worked continuously through the summer removing the 4188 nests located by volunteer and staff surveyors. The aim is to remove the nests, which can contain hundreds of toxic caterpillars (*pictured below*), before the caterpillars pupate and emerge as adult moths in late July/August.

Manual nest removal forms part of The Royal Parks' rigorous management programme for the moth which has been present in the park since 2009. The caterpillars feed on oak leaves and can threaten the health of the trees by causing extensive defoliation. This has been the case in Germany where repeat episodes of OPM defoliation have resulted in the death of whole stands of infested trees, and this threat is of particular concern to our already vulnerable veteran oaks and those suffering from Acute Oak Decline. As is now well known, the older caterpillars are also covered in toxic barbed hairs which can cause a significant threat to human health.

In 2012, due to the forecast increase in nest numbers and the potential for it to be logistically impossible to remove them all before moth emergence, a decision was made to spray a small number of previously infested trees with a Lepidoptera-specific pesticide. In keeping with the statutory designation

of the park as a Site of Special Scientific Interest, The Royal Parks applied for consent from Natural England to carry out this operation, which was granted after careful consideration of the levels of infestation in the park, the increase in the moths' distribution, the relatively low impact on other Lepidoptera species, and the fact that it causes the least collateral damage of non-target species of all the pesticides authorised for use against OPM in the UK. Monitoring showed that the spraying was very successful.

This combined approach of pesticide spraying and manual removal will again be implemented in 2013 and the committed work of volunteer surveyors will continue to be crucial in the surveying for and location of nests. The Royal Parks also continues to work closely with the Forestry Commission and other stakeholders managing the pest and is a partner in a DEFRA-funded research strand seeking to learn more about its early detection.



Winter birds

Jan Wilczur



Wigeon were welcome winter visitors to Pen Ponds; for the second winter in succession they appeared in good numbers, peaking at 95 in November. They were joined by even better numbers of Gadwall (*picture above by Jan*) with 177 of these in December. Other dabbling ducks included small groups of Shoveler and Teal, the latter usually lurking close to the reed bed. Up to 25 Red-crested Pochard were also an attractive feature of the Ponds, although their appearances were sporadic and they disappeared during the cold spell. The single Shelduck frequenting Upper Pond was not wild but from the collection in Isabella Plantation, temporarily rehoused while its home pond was undergoing renovation.

An exciting raptor sighting was that of an immature female Peregrine on Boxing Day. It swooped low over the Upper Pond, banking against the edge of Pond Plantation before flying away, the whole incident lasting just seconds.

The only gulls normally seen on the Pen Ponds are Black-headed and Common. The larger species fly over daily on their way between their reservoir roosts and either the Thames or the

refuse tip at Beddington. But when the Upper Pond was partially frozen a few landed on the ice for a while in the early morning. A first-winter Yellow-legged Gull amongst these gulls was a surprise find on 16th January, interestingly in similar circumstances to the last record of this rare visitor, in January 2009. At the onset of a blizzard on the morning

of the 18th, up to 70 Herring Gulls were forced to land on the ice of Upper Pond, amongst them two more first-winter Yellow-legged Gulls.

Apart from a forlorn Lapwing on the ice of the Lower Pond on 19th January, cold weather movements were disappointing. A survey of the Water Rails in the reed bed found at least seven birds, a notable increase on previous years, undoubtedly due to the work carried out by the Friends' Conservation Volunteers who had cleared some of the invading alder and willow scrub. The wintering Bittern still remains a dream, despite six being seen at the nearby London Wetland Centre.

Flocks of Fieldfares, grounded and flying over, were another feature of the snowy conditions. Unusually, they outnumbered Redwings, the other wintering thrush.

The rarest bird seen this winter was a Great White Egret over-flying Pen Ponds on 27th November. Seen earlier at the London Wetland Centre it had been disturbed by a helicopter and flown off towards the Park where it could be added to the Park list of species.

My Richmond Park



I've been walking in Richmond Park for a good sixty years! My mum and dad were allocated a council flat on Kingston Hill when I was six. My mum was thrilled to have her own home, with a proper kitchen and central heating, an amazing luxury in those days. My dad was delighted with the location – and the first time he set off for a walk he discovered Richmond Park. My mum wasn't a keen walker at all – she was very much a lady who trotted around in high heels in those days – but I was happy to skip along beside Dad. We didn't explore very far – just popped through Kingston Gate and walked up to Ladderstile and back. I loved all the ditches and tried to jump them all, pretending I was a little racehorse (I was a very weird child).

Jacqueline Wilson

I went to Latchmere School in the 1950s. We had a delightfully eccentric teacher called Miss Audrich, who had very long, very ginger hair tied up in complicated plaits around her head, and a penchant for hand-knitted suits in violent shades of emerald or purple. She took us for Nature Study, and one fine day decided that the best way to do this was take us for a walk in Richmond Park. It was a good half hour's march from the school to the entrance of the park, but Miss Audrich encouraged us to stride out all the way to Pen Ponds. We all found this a magical spot, like a little seaside hidden in the midst of the Park. We were allowed to go wading in the shallows and most of us got soaked. We became very cold and wet and tired and found the long walk back to school a struggle, but Miss Audrich urged us onwards, singing "I love to go a-wandering" at the top of her voice and making us all sing the chorus. We all ended up with chapped legs and blisters – but we also loved Richmond Park with a passion.

I've been visiting the Park regularly ever since. When I was in my twenties I lived in a flat on the lower slopes of Kingston Hill and had the luxury of being able to stride out there for an hour or so every single day. I started to feel I knew every deer personally!

When I moved further away I still went to the Park regularly, delighting in walking from Kingston Gate right through to Richmond. Sometimes I did the river walk and then walked back through the Park. I'm a bit old and poorly for that kind of trek now, but I frequently wander through the beautiful Isabella Plantation – and I frequently have a bite to eat at Pembroke Lodge.

One of my children's books, "Best Friends", was turned into a television drama, and they used the frontage of Pembroke Lodge as the home of a grand old lady in the story. I was actually lucky enough to meet the grandest old lady who once lived in a house in the Park, the Queen Mother. She told me that Richmond Park meant a great deal to her too.

I love visiting the Park at all times of the year. I particularly like it when the fawns are born – and also love the exciting time in the autumn when all the stags are bellowing dramatically. The Park is heavenly on a warm summer's day when you hear a Skylark overhead, and magical in the depths of winter when the ponds are frozen over and children are sledging down the hills. I'm not an early morning person so I've never experienced a sunrise in the park, but I know how beautiful it is when the sun sets, and all the rabbits are scampering about. There's such an abundance of wildlife in the Park. It's marvellous that so many suburban dwellers can experience the joys of the countryside on their own doorstep.

I love the ancient oaks in the park – I used to climb inside them as a child, and recently I wrote a book called "Lily Alone" where four runaway children camp in the park and sleep in a tree at night. I do hope children reading this book might want to discover Richmond Park for themselves!

Jacqueline Wilson is a patron of the Friends and a much-loved children's author. In June 2002 she was given an OBE for services to literacy in schools and in 2008 was made a Dame. In 2008 she published a memoir, "Jackie Daydream".

An Oscar in the Park

Michael Davison



Their bacon butties are famous for miles around. They're "lovely people," says Sally from Kingston; "Brilliant!" says Marion from Barnes. "They're here every day, in all weathers," says one regular customer. "I pass here just to say 'ciao' even if I don't need a snack," says another.

The object of these Park visitors' enthusiasm is the family team who run the snack van beside the Pen Ponds car park. Oscar and Lisa Posteraro are husband and wife; Lisa's brother Peter Maiera completes the trio (pictured above left to right Peter, Lisa, Oscar). Italian-born but long resident in England, they've been dispensing food in the Park for seven years. During this time they have become firm favourites among the cognoscenti. Customers with dogs welcome the drinking bowl always in place beside the van. Appreciative customers of an artistic bent have contributed cartoons of the team which are displayed proudly above the counter.

Watch out for an exciting new development this summer: with their contract just renewed by The Royal Parks, the van is to be replaced by a brand-new vehicle, with more facilities, a bigger coffee-maker, ice-cream in summer, and faster service.

Gift Aid, Membership and Subscriptions

Thank you to all those of you who have paid your subscriptions promptly; reminders are enclosed for those who have not yet got around to renewing. We hope you will stay with us and that you value your membership. Subscriptions cover our newsletters, administrative and governance costs (including the AGM meeting and lunch), as well as walks, talks and other activities, but leave little for conservation in the Park, so all your donations are extremely welcome. A number of you have also converted to paying by Standing Order, and this helps to reduce our costs, as well as being less costly for you, given the increasing cost of postage. Gift Aid also adds to the amount that can be used for conservation and is also helpful.

If we are to be able to fund substantial conservation projects in the Park, we will need to increase our revenue each year. The sales of books has gone some way to producing a healthy surplus and we were successful in raising over £15,000 for the Jubilee Pond, but have only raised just over £2,000 so far for the other Ponds and Streams projects. We are likely to address the issue of donations and subscription levels at our AGM in April. It is possible that we will seek to increase the subscriptions at some point in the future, but would be keen to obtain the views of members and the balance between the level of subscriptions and both general and specific (Ponds and Streams) donations.

By way of a reminder, the subscription levels are £6 for individuals and £10 for households and societies. All membership enquiries to me please, on 020 8876 2623.

*Sheila Hamilton, Hon. Membership Secretary
membership@frp.org.uk*

Queries about Friends?

See www.frp.org.uk, or contact secretary@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@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk
Website: www.royalparks.gov.uk

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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 two-hour walk. Courses are for Friends members only and places must be booked – please contact Sue on 020 8549 8975 or sue.gibbons@npl.co.uk. Coffee/tea provided. There will be no charge.

See also 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
6 April	10.00am	WALK: including “ Walk the Wall ” option, meet at Roehampton Gate car park
27 April	<u>8.00am</u>	WALK: Spring Birds , meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
4 May	10.00am	WALK: meet at Broomfield Hill car park
6 May	<u>5.00am</u>	WALK: Dawn Chorus , meet at Sheen Gate car park
18 May	10.00am	COURSE*: Ecology of Richmond Park (Dr Nigel Reeve)
1 June	10.00am	WALK: meet at Sheen Gate car park
15 June	10.00am	COURSE*: Butterflies (Ray Garrett)
6 July	10.00am	WALK: meet at Pembroke Lodge car park
13 July	10.00am	COURSE: Isabella Plantation Access Project (Hannah Pritchard)
20 July	<u>8.00pm</u>	WALK: Summer Evening , meet at Sheen Gate car park

Other events coming up –

Sat 20 April	Friends' AGM at King's House School – please find enclosed the agenda and other AGM papers.
May, June, July	Friends at local summer fairs (see page 2)



Registered charity No. 1133201
www.frp.org.uk

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