

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

## Spring 2017



Twenty species of butterflies Ragwort in the Park Friends' Litter Campaign Informal Bird Walks The view to St Paul's Traffic survey

# Final shooting for Park film

The last of the filming in the Park with Sir David Attenborough was done in late November, capturing the autumn colours and nature's harvest. The long processes of editing and narration were carried out though the autumn and the winter and we hope the film will be ready to be released around Easter 2017.



We have also filmed a short 'teaser' to whet appetites – so look out for this and for announcements on release of the film, through our email bulletins, Facebook, Twitter and other media.

#### Calling for photos for the Friends' Calendar 2018

We are now inviting photos for the 2018 Friends' calendar which will show the amazing diversity of fauna and flora and views in the Park. This year we have increased the maximum number of photos that each photographer can send in – up to eight photos, but not more than four from any one season – **and our deadline is 13 April.** Please see <u>www.bit.ly/calendarphotos</u> for full details of where and how to send us your photos. We look forward to seeing them!

#### Front cover photo

Small Copper on Rudbeckia in Pembroke Lodge grounds by Nigel Jackman

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## Friends' Litter Campaign

Litter on the ground causes harm to the Park's animals as they eat but cannot digest it.\* With 5.5 million visitors a year, it only takes a small minority to drop their litter to cause a substantial litter problem. Although the TRP litter team of seven pickers cover the whole Park once a week and Friends volunteers pick up litter on their usual walks, they can't be everywhere all the time. For this reason, the Friends have been busy since January preparing a campaign to reduce the litter in the Park:

On 5 March 2017 we held *The Richmond Park Spring Clean* – volunteers scoured the Park collecting all the carelessly abandoned litter they could find and disposing of

it with the help of the Royal Parks team. We plan to run this 'tidy up' annually and wish to thank everyone who was involved in our inaugural event.

Other initiatives in our campaign include: *Don't drop litter* signs and a planned trial of litterbag dispensers at popular locations – visitors will be encouraged to take free bags to put their rubbish in, and then dispose of it in one of the Park's 130 bins or take it home.

\* See article on page 11 of autumn 2016 Friends' newsletter.



Spring Clean organiser Steve Sandham picking up litter in the Park

## New Royal Parks' objectives and Trustees

Conservation of the natural environment and biodiversity are now high on the list of the Royal Parks' new objectives – a big difference from before. These are:

- 1. To promote the use and enjoyment of the Royal Parks for public recreation, health and well-being.
- 2. To protect, conserve, maintain and care for the Royal Parks, including their natural and designed landscapes and built environment.
- 3. To maintain and develop the biodiversity of the Royal Parks, including the protection of their wildlife and natural environment.
- 4. To support the advancement of education, by promoting public understanding of the history, culture, heritage and natural environment.
- 5. To promote the national heritage by hosting and facilitating ceremonies of state within the Royal Parks.

However, none of the first four Trustees of the new charity appointed by the government has scientific or management experience in the natural environment – they are an accountant, lawyer, broadcaster and retailer. The previous Board had the same failing and we have written to the new Chair, Loyd Grossman, asking how he will bring in the experience to achieve the objectives.

#### Ragwort By Hugh Bradshaw

There can be few native plants which attract such consistently bad press as the Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*). This widespread biennial is a familiar sight in the Park, where it forms waist-high clumps covered in flat-topped clusters of yellow, daisy-like flowers.

Hated by many, it is a commonly held, but mistaken, belief that a landowner is under a duty to control, or even eradicate, the plant. However, this is actually only the case if an official order is served. The horse-riding fraternity's enmity towards Ragwort though is well placed, since it is extremely poisonous to horses. Even small amounts, if ingested, can prove fatal. Happily though, horses rarely eat the living plants (dried Ragwort is another matter) and as there are no free-grazing horses in the Park, Ragwort should pose little threat. In any case, other plants like foxglove, yew and even oak are also poisonous to horses. The deer also choose to ignore the plant when grazing.



Despite its negative image, Ragwort is a valuable component of the Park's ecology, providing a vital nectar source for countless insect species including hoverflies, bees, moths and butterflies. This is because it flowers in July and August, later than most other species, and thrives in habitats where other flowering plants are scarce. For a butterfly enthusiast, a walk through the Park's Ragwort

clumps is an uplifting experience, as the flowers can be covered in Small Coppers, Meadow Browns and Small Heaths. Indeed, without Ragwort the numbers of many butterflies and other insects in the Park might crash – for example, it is the sole food source of the Cinnabar Moth with its distinctive yellow and black striped caterpillars.

However, Ragwort is an invasive species. Previously not a common sight in the Park, a recent increase means it is now found easily in nearly an eighth of its area. Ragwort's feathery seed heads can travel long distances and once it finds a suitable growing area it can form dense fields of plants. This can have a detrimental effect on finely balanced habitats, like the Park's acid grasslands. Consequently, Ragwort is controlled in the Park. The aim is to prevent it becoming abundant in any single area and to control it completely alongside horse rides and in areas cut for hay. Teams can be seen uprooting plants from late summer onwards. However, a small number of plants are allowed to grow so that butterflies and other insects are not left totally bereft of food sources.

#### Butterflies of Richmond Park By Nigel Jackman

Last year saw the loss of Raymond Garrett who we sorely miss as an active Friend who did so much for butterfly recording while sharing his passion for the Park's butterflies. This passion is easy to understand as we move into spring and summer when the Park becomes alive with these beautiful winged insects, lifting our spirits after the winter.

Some butterflies are very dependent on specialist habitats and other conditions and are not found in the Park. However, more than 20 of Surrey's 42 species may be seen here. These include the Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, the Whites, Skippers (Small, Essex and Large), Common and Holly Blue, Meadow Brown, Speckled Wood, Ringlet and Gatekeeper.

Some butterflies, such as Essex Skipper, over-winter in their egg stage; some (e.g. Meadow Brown) overwinter as larvae, and some as pupae (e.g. the Whites). Others, such as Peacock, Brimstone and Comma (photo page 15) hibernate as adults and they are the first to be seen in flight.

Each species has its own season or multi-brood seasons, peaking overall in mid-summer, but with some species still in flight into November. Migrants boost numbers of Red Admirals and Whites, and summer treats to look out for in unpredictable numbers are the true migrants: Painted Ladies and sometimes Clouded Yellows.

The particularly characteristic species of the Park's extensive grasslands and woodland edges are the Small Heath, Small Copper, Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper. The Small Heath has long had a stronghold in Richmond Park: small and orange-brown/grey, its season is late May until September.



Small Coppers (front cover photo) can have several broods and they did particularly well last year. They were observed in very good numbers on ragwort in August and September, across large areas of the Park including Sidmouth Slope, Pond Slade, The Bog and Pembroke Lodge Gardens.

Sometimes profuse numbers of Gatekeepers may be seen in July and August especially on ragwort and flowering brambles. The Purple Hairstreak, a small, beautiful, but difficult to observe woodland species, can occur in large numbers in July as it flutters in and out of the middle and upper canopies of Oak trees, e.g. along Queen's Ride.

However, butterflies everywhere are under constant threat and numbers overall are in decline, the victims of habitat and climate change, seasonally unfavourable weather, predation and parasitism.

Photo: Small Heath by Nigel Jackman

## Save the View Campaign – London Mayor's response

The view from King Henry's Mound (KHM) to St Paul's was created over 300 years ago when the cathedral was completed. In 1992 it was granted legal protection from building developments along the sightline, along with 13 other special views in London.

Last November, a 42-storey building, Manhattan Loft Gardens at Stratford, began to appear in the sightline behind St Paul's dome. It transpired that in 2011 developers had received planning permission by exploiting a loophole in the protection that ended 2 miles behind St Paul's and 3 miles



short of Stratford. When the protection was created in 1992 no one imagined there would be large-scale development at Stratford.

The Friends quickly wrote to the Mayor, Sadiq Khan, who is responsible for the protected views and started a 'Save the View' campaign, with an online petition that received nearly 9,000 signatures. There was also a 200-strong protest gathering at KHM, addressed by Sarah Olney (*photo*), MP for the Richmond Park constituency, ending with a walk through Sidmouth Wood along the sightline created in 1710.



The campaign received extensive media coverage from the Guardian, Times, Evening Standard, ITV and BBC News. We also had support from St Paul's itself, Historic England, Richmond Council, The Royal Parks, and Tony Arbour, the local London Assembly member.

In mid-December, the campaign won a partial victory when the Mayor responded in the Assembly to a question from Tony Arbour. Making a specific mention of the Friends'

campaign, the Mayor committed to extend the protected sightline to Stratford and beyond (and to introduce a similar extension for the other views). He has subsequently confirmed this in writing.

Formal changes to the protection will take time, so we are now investigating whether there are other developments in the pipeline that might affect the view and contacting the Manhattan Loft Gardens developer to find ways to mitigate the impact of the building on the view (unfortunately it will not be pulled down). The campaign continues...

#### What lies beneath? By Steve Sandham

What lies beneath Richmond Park's magnificent landscape was explored by more than 20 Friends of Richmond Park when they joined the Geodiversity Partnership, and other geologists, for a Geotrail walk during Earth Science Week last October. The 7km circular route started at Kingston Gate, passing by Pembroke Lodge, Pen Ponds and part of the Capital Ring. This walk will be repeated on 20 May 2017.



Towards Pen Ponds by Anne Ross

The area is interesting geologically as several different rock types occur here. It is for this reason that it has been put forward as a Locally Important Geological Site.

London Clay, thought to be about 51 million years old, underlies Richmond Park. This includes the sandier layers at the top, known as the Claygate beds. They were laid down at a time when the temperature was significantly higher than the present, and the London Clay environment has been compared with Malaysia today: hot and wet but with some seasonality. During this time the African continent collided with Europe and the Alps were pushed up. Even as far as southern England the effects of this were felt with the Weald of Kent and Sussex pushed up into an anticline and the London Basin down-folded into a syncline.

Other types of rocks are comparative newcomers to Richmond Park and were carried here about 400,000 years ago by the melting of the Anglian Ice Sheet which reached as far as Finchley in North London. As the ice melted, it released pebbles and rock fragments into the engorged River Thames and deposited them over a wide flood plain, including the area which is now Richmond Park.

Rocks from the Anglian Ice Sheet include Black Park gravel which caps the high grounds near Kingston Gate and Pembroke Lodge. This type of gravel underlies all of the high plateau areas in this part of London and is composed predominantly of flint pebbles. Other pebbles from the Anglian ice sheet have come from much further away: Triassic 'Bunter' sandstone pebbles have been found that have been brought here from the Midlands. The rounded nature of some of the Black Park Gravel and Bunter pebbles indicates a long period of erosion by flowing water.

For a much more detailed report on the geology of the Park see <u>www.bit.ly/Geotrails</u>

#### **PARK BIRDS**

#### A Jolly Good Spot By Alison Glasier

I'm standing in the middle of Lawn Field in Richmond Park, leaning backwards precariously, binoculars rammed up against my eyes. "Where is it?" I ask tentatively of my bird-watching companions. "Over *there!*" comes the reply. I focus desperately over there. Nothing. "But *where*?" I cry. "*There! In. The. Sky.*" Well, that narrows it down.

It's Friday morning and the Informal Bird Group is braving leaden skies and biting winds to seek out some informal birds. However, most of them have given the weather a birdy eye and snuggled back down in their cosy nests. Only the Egyptian and Canada geese have ventured out and are honking noisily at this motley crew of bird-lovers who might



perhaps have come to feed them. No? They waddle back to the Pen Ponds and honk off into the distance.

The group is led by the indefatigable and enthusiastic Peter Burrows-Smith and comprises people from all walks of life, some of whom have impressive and detailed knowledge of matters avian, others who can just about tell a blackbird from a swan. I put myself in the middle of these rankings. Before I started coming on these walks I knew that birds fell into two groups: LBJs (little brown jobs) and Ducks. But now my horizons have expanded and I know that there are also Raptors. And Owls.



We walk further and the leaden skies lighten a little. "Stonechat at ten o'clock!" All binoculars swivel in unison, mine a little belatedly as I was trying to work out how a stonechat could be so punctual.

A stonechat belongs to the LBJ genus. And as we watch it flit up and down in the bracken, a kestrel swoops over and hovers directly above us. This kestrel is a big show-off and likes to flaunt its aerial skills to the group before plummeting to earth to seize its prey. Hope it wasn't the stonechat. The kestrel is a Raptor.

#### **PARK BIRDS**

And then there are shovelers and gadwalls, pochards and grebes, herons and little egrets and sometimes a snipe. Once there was a Jack snipe which is secretive but bobs up and down. All these are probably Ducks but I may have to look that up. We've seen kingfishers (probably not the Duck family, but hardly LBJ), little owls, a tawny owl, buzzards and sparrow-hawks and peregrines (definitely Raptors). And even the Dartford warbler (an LBJ, but such a pretty one).



So come and join us. No previous experience or knowledge required (as you can probably tell from my somewhat hazy identification rationale), just a love of nature, sensible shoes and a touch of optimism.

Photos all taken on Informal Bird Walks: top left Little Egret by Sue Lindenberg; below left Stonechat and above Little Owl, both by Paula Redmond.

#### Join us on Friends' free Informal Bird Walks Every Friday 9.30am meeting at Pen Ponds Coffee Kiosk

#### Senegal Common Tern

In the last few years, the Friends and the Visitor Centre have funded two floating tern rafts on Pen Ponds to encourage breeding. Each year there has been a breeding pair and a small number of chicks that have fledged successfully. This spring we are funding a third tern raft.

Last April one of the 2015 chicks that had an identity ring attached to its leg was discovered in a survey in Senegal where it was on its spring passage back to the UK. It would have migrated much further south for the winter on a 5,000 mile journey each way although weighing only 130g.

#### **Skylark protection**

Because skylarks nest on the ground they are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by people and dogs. Once distributed widely in the Park, numbers have declined so much that its main habitats – Lawn Field, between Pen Ponds and White Lodge, and Crown Field between Roehampton Gate and White Lodge – are now protected with signs and fencing during the breeding season from March to June.

Please avoid the two nesting areas or, if you do enter them, keep to the paths and keep dogs on leads. And please encourage others to do so too.

## Congratulations – UK Eco Loo of the Year!

The loos at Peg's Pond Gate in Isabella Plantation beat off firm competition at the annual 'Loo of the Year Awards' to receive a platinum award and be crowned the winner of the UK's best eco-friendly toilet. The five waterless toilets, which receive in excess of 400,000 visits a year, are odourless and non-flush, with waste collected in 1,000-gallon tanks. Jo Scrivener, the Assistant Park Manager, is reported to have said: "*These are not your bog standard toilets – they are the perfect combination of low maintenance, low cost and low carbon.*"

#### Tony Hatton, Will Brown and Dick Farr



Tony Hatton (left) has been promoted to Head Wildlife Officer, in place of John Bartram who retired last year (see Autumn 2016 newsletter). Will Brown (right) has been recruited to fill the vacant Wildlife Officer post and started his new job last December. We wish them both all the best.



Dick Farr has reached 40 years of service as a gardener in the Park. Originally employed by The Royal Parks, he joined the firm of contractors when the work was outsourced in the 1990s and has continued in the same role with successive firms since then.

#### Lichen survey

The Friends and the Visitor Centre contributed half of the cost of a survey last summer of lichen in the Park. Lichen has increased in the London area as the air has become cleaner, but there hasn't been a survey in Richmond Park for a long time. 180 species of lichen were identified, with the greatest density in the area from Ham Gate northward. Interestingly, trees planted since 1985 had more lichen because they missed the worst of the air pollution. Ancient trees had the least bark lichen because of their uptake of sulphur over the last two centuries.

#### Small autumn crop

Last year's crop of autumn fruits was small – acorns were parasitised by knopper gall wasps and fungi were scarce because of the dry weather. There was also little beech mast or horse chestnuts (sweet chestnuts fared better). The dry weather also reduced grass growth, so the deer started the winter without their normal reserves. Fortunately, the warm weather in late November and December helped them through and the usual supplementary feeding started in December.

#### Pembroke Lodge Gardens



The south lawn at Pembroke Lodge has a new terrace area. A hard surface has replaced the grassed area, which had become eroded and often muddy from the large number of visitors. The new terrace provides additional seating and a better area for reception drinks for weddings. A low hedge and new borders containing a mixture of winter flowering shrubs and herbaceous perennials will surround it.

The north lawn (opposite the Belvedere

Suite entrance) has been fenced with metal railings to protect it from visitors (*photo by Ron Crompton*) The veteran trees were suffering from soil compaction over their roots and the daffodils in spring and fungi in autumn were regularly picked or trampled on. The protection resulted in a fine group of fungi showing through the grass in November.

#### Poor breeding season for water birds

Fifty-one species of bird bred in Richmond Park in 2016, similar to previous years, but with some common species missing. Important species that failed to breed include Pochard, Water Rail, Kingfisher, Starling and Goldfinch. Worryingly, given its red-listing, the Lesser Spotted Woodpecker may be extinct as a breeding species in the Park.



Water birds in particular had a poor season, especially at Pen Ponds, where only Grey Heron had an increase in broods and fledged more young. Of seven wildfowl species, only Mallard fledged a few young. Common Tern, Moorhen and Coot all produced a single brood that was subsequently lost. One problem is the lack of nests, particularly at the edges of the Ponds where dogs and deer disturb them. You can see the full report on our website at: <a href="https://www.frp.org.uk/news/1418-bird-species-in-decline">www.frp.org.uk/news/1418-bird-species-in-decline</a>

Photo of Coots by Sue Lindenberg

#### **PARK HISTORY**

### The Duchess of Teck: The People's Princess

The memorial by Richmond Gate to the Duchess of Teck may be restored soon. There is also a plantation in the Park named after her – making her the Park's most commemorated former resident. But why?

The Duchess of Teck, Princess Mary Adelaide, was the daughter of Prince Adolphus, youngest son of George III. She was born in 1833, spent her early life in Hanover and married the German Duke of Teck in 1866 at the parish church in Kew.

In 1869 Queen Victoria gave the couple the use of White Lodge in Richmond Park as their residence and they lived here nearly all the rest of their lives. They had four children and in 1891 their daughter May married Prince George, the future George V and she became Queen Mary. Their son, the future Edward VIII, was born and baptised at White Lodge.

The Duchess of Teck believed that charitable works were the best use of a princess's time, and she took an active role especially with hospital and children's charities. Being aware of the needs of the poor and having the "common touch" she became very well loved and was known as the 'People's Princess' – a term that today is associated with the late Diana, Princess of Wales.

Queen Mary had been involved in her mother's charitable work and, in this respect, set the ethos of her 26-year reign and that of her descendants, including our present Royal Family.



The Duchess was also famous for her extravagance – she liked entertaining and fine clothes and jewellery, but also gave substantially to charity. Her debts increased, despite a parliamentary allowance and financial help from her family. In 1883, she and the Duke fled abroad to escape their creditors. However, within two years they were once again living in White Lodge.

This 19<sup>th</sup> century People's Princess is commemorated by the Teck Plantation near Sheen Gate, planted in 1905, eight years after her death, and by the Teck Memorial just outside Richmond Gate. The commentary plaques on this were removed or stolen long ago and the drinking fountains no longer work, but Park management has recently cleared the overgrowth of plants that largely obscured it from view.

But why commemorate the Duchess with a drinking fountain? Maybe this was a way of continuing the care she gave to so many people from her home in Richmond Park.

Photo: The Duchess of Teck and her daughter Mary (May) with kind permission of the Church of St John the Baptist, Kingston Vale.

## Survey confirms a preference to use Richmond Park over South Circular – and widespread speeding

In late summer 2015, you would have seen strange things in the Park – tall posts with camera boxes on them and rubber tubes across the roads. They were part of a traffic survey, the first for over 10 years. In all, there were 16 automatic and manual recording points around the Park. What did the survey show?

Overall car numbers have fallen by 15% from the early 2000s, with a fall of 10% in the rush hour and 25% at midday. The fall is mainly due to the closure of Robin Hood Gate in 2003. Excluding that, car numbers have been stable for the last 10-15 years.

In the rush hours, 90% is through traffic and most of the drivers are commuting locally between the nearby boroughs of Kingston, Richmond and Wandsworth, either to work or on the school run. The biggest commuting route is between Richmond and Kingston Gates, followed by between Roehampton and Sheen Gates.

In the morning rush hours, more drivers use the Park to travel between Richmond and Roehampton/Barnes than use the South Circular Road through Sheen.

Breaking the 20mph speed limit is common on several stretches of Park roads, ranging from 82% of drivers during weekdays to 50% at quiet weekends. On several stretches of road 1 in 6 go over 25mph. The highest average speeds are down Broomfield Hill where there is little traffic and a steep descent – here 15% of drivers exceed 31mph.

The biggest difference in the last 10 years is the growth in cycling. The survey counted nearly 400 cyclists an hour entering the Park on a Saturday. It did not show cycle speeds, but previous studies suggest that average speeds are about the same as cars.

## **Royal Parks' new Transport Principles**

The Royal Parks recently published a set of Transport Principles. The first priority is that "The parks are natural environments that must be protected, including the wildlife that inhabits the parks". Below that, in order of need, the priorities are:

- Vulnerable users
- Pedestrians, walkers
- Runners, joggers
- Horse riders
- Cyclists, skaters
- Cars and motorbikes
- Through traffic

We welcome the priority given to wildlife, vulnerable users and pedestrians, which we think do not receive a fair deal at present.

## Friends' AGM

10am, Saturday 8 April at King's House School 68 King's Road, Richmond TW10 6ES Agenda and papers are sent out to members with this newsletter

#### **Oak Processionary Moth**

Over 9,000 Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) nests were removed from the Park's trees last year, slightly down on the previous year. The south of the Park was worse and the north better than last year, for no apparent reason. Over 70 trees each had between 30 and 146 nests.

Please be aware that there may be old nests on the ground. Last year a dog was seriously ill from eating a nest and the owner developed a rash from picking the nest up. So please be careful. OPM continues to spread across London and now stretches from Watford to Wisley.

#### Enquiries

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

Park management: contact Park Manager Simon Richards, 0300 061 2200 or email Richmond@royalparks.gsl.gov.uk

## Police non-emergency telephone number: 101

#### Membership and Subscriptions

If you wish to become a Friend, please download a membership form from our website

www.frp.org.uk/friends/get-involved or pick one up from the Visitor Centre at Pembroke Lodge or email me at <u>membership@frp.org.uk</u>. Individual membership is £10 per year and household membership is £15.

Members please note that membership fees increased in 2015 – please update your standing order if you have not already done this, so you continue to receive the newsletter and bulletin, and continue to support the work of the Friends of Richmond Park.

If you are a member and don't receive the monthly Friends' bulletin by email and wish to do so, please email <u>bulletins@frp.org.uk</u> with the subject 'Add to bulletin'. You can easily stop it at any time.

If you change your email or home address then please let us know by emailing <u>membership@frp.org.uk</u> and include your previous address.

# Membership renewals for those paying by cash were due on 1 January 2017.

With thanks, Chris Mason Membership secretary

This newsletter is printed on paper that is 50% recycled and 50% from certified sustainable forests.

#### **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

## Friends' Walks

All are welcome. Friends' Walks are free, last about two hours and start from a car park. All except Bird Walks are on Saturdays unless otherwise stated.

If you need special support or help with the walk, please phone Ian McKenzie on 020 8943 0632 in advance, or 07824 784335 email <u>walks@frp.org.uk</u> only on the walk day itself. Also see our website: <u>www.frp.org.uk</u>

Please keep dogs under control.

#### Date Starting at 10am from

- 1 April Sheen Gate Car Park (+ Walk the Wall)
- 6 May Broomfield Hill Car Park
- 3 June Pen Ponds Car Park
- 1 July Robin Hood Gate Car Park

**Plus Informal Bird Walks** every Friday at 9.30am from Pen Ponds coffee kiosk.



Discoverers is the Friends' activities programme for families and young people. For full details of our programme, including a Celebration of the Parks' butterflies, visit www.discoverers.frp.org.uk or f/thefriendsofrichmondpark



Comma butterfly by Teresa Grafton

Park closed Sunday 4 June to cars and cyclists for a new running event – see www.london10mile.com

## **Friends' Courses**

Courses begin at 10am and are typically a 30-minute talk at Pembroke Lodge followed by a two-hour walk. Courses are for members of the Friends only and do not need to be booked – just turn up. There is no charge and coffee and tea are provided. See also <u>www.frp.org.uk</u>

18 March	Spring Birds and Bird Song – led by Peter Burrows-Smith
13 May	Wildlife Photography – led by Russell Ritchin
15 July	Butterflies – led by Nigel Jackman

## **Newsletter people**

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Lapwing by Sue Lindenberg spotted on her way to join a Friends' Informal Bird Walk (see centre pages)

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

> > Registered charity number 1133201