



1990 THE FRIENDS OF BUSHY & HOME PARKS 25th ANNIVERSARY 2015

Newsletter

Autumn 2015

From the Chair



The Friends continue to work hard on behalf of all Park users to try and ensure that everyone is able to derive pleasure from these environs. Organisations that use the Parks have a voice and we welcome the opportunity to work together. Wildlife and nature on the other hand need a voice, particularly in these times of increasing environmental threats. We will probably be losing a significant number of horse chestnut trees to bleeding canker. The number of oak processionary moth nests continues to rise year on year, despite an active spraying programme.

On a lighter note I do hope that you have been able to visit the Water Gardens and appreciate the latest stage in their restoration; the installation of trompe l'oeil panels in the arches. The next project will be to restore the hoods on the stoop basins. As a result of your generous donations we are planning an extensive planting programme; in the Water Gardens camellias, yews and holly, and in Home Park naturalistic water-side planting on the Long Water. If you would like to help us at the working session in November, please do come along.

Finally, I do appreciate the time taken by members to contact me; whilst not always being able to resolve issues raised, it does help us to bring to the attention of management your concerns and observations.

Annie Murray

Dates for your diary

Thursday 22 October 2015

HAM HOUSE AND GARDENS

Talk by Naomi Campbell

St John Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, commencing at 8.00 pm

Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

Saturday 7 November 2015

WORKING SESSION IN THE WOODLAND GARDENS

Led by Chris Nickerson

Meet 11.00 am

Pheasantry Welcome Centre, Bushy Park

Some tools will be available but please bring

gardening gloves and spade and/or trowel if possible.

The work should be fun and not too arduous.

Thursday 26 November 2015

WATER VOLES

Talk by Jim Jones

St John Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, commencing at 8.00 pm

Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

Thursday 26 November 2015

TEDDINGTON LIGHTS UP

Friday 27 November 2015

HAMPTON HILL PARADE

Volunteer Events



Rosemary MacColl with a visitor at the Teddington Village Fair held in Udney Hall Gardens on 28 June.



On 4 July the FBHP volunteers gathered at the Bushy Park Information Point for tea.



A group of volunteers took part in the parade at the Hampton Wick Festival on 2 August.

There is an enthusiastic group of volunteers who give advice to park visitors at the Information Point and take part in other local events. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you feel able to give a few hours each month, please contact Rosemary MacColl (volunteer coordinator) on 07980 740397 or rosemary.maccoll@fbhp.org.uk

New CEO for The Royal Parks



As reported in the summer issue, Andrew Scattergood has been appointed chief executive of The Royal Parks. He kindly replied to our request to introduce himself:

I started on 17 June and, after a near two week handover, I quickly realised just how much is going on. Every day has been worthwhile and different! I've had a long association with the Parks, first and foremost as a visitor to all of them, but also through my roles within Government: as Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and later as the DCMS contact between LOCOG and TRP during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. All through this time I valued this organisation and what it does to protect such a wonderful environment. It truly is a special place! I have a close association with Bushy Park, having lived in Long Ditton for 14 years. I have taken my family there on many occasions and it is a very special place to visit and spend time.

I have spent time visiting each Park and meeting the staff, which has given me the opportunity to get to know how the organisation runs and what the specific issues are. Looking to the future, I am keen to keep, protect and improve our wonderful Parks by responding to the wider challenges facing us. We, along with all other government departments, are continually looking to grow our own income to offset reductions in grant. This is a fine balancing act. As part of this, we are considering our future status in light of the challenges we face. This is a huge piece of work and something that I am committed to achieving.

I am very grateful for everyone's support in my first month here and look forward to leading the organisation into the next chapter.

News from Bushy Park

- The trompe l'oeil panels have now been added to the arches at the Water Gardens replicating the effect of a tunnel behind the cascade.
- The number of Oak Processionary Moth nests located and removed rose above 1,000 for the first time. The diligence of the voluntary and TRP staff surveyors enabled the removal teams to be deployed effectively.
- Building work at the Pheasantry yard is continuing. The facilities for the volunteer gardeners are now complete and a new tractor shed is being constructed.



- The stags and bucks now sport fully-grown antlers. They may be seen thrashing them about in the vegetation to build up their neck muscles, as they start establishing territories for the rut. The deer also indulge in dust wallows to assist the shedding of their summer coats as their winter ones grow through.

News from Home Park

- Russell Downs has been appointed as the new wildlife officer and will be looking after the deer herd.
- Over the winter heavy horses from Operation Centaur will be used to cut the grass in the meadows.
- Repairs will be needed on two of the gates into the Park which were damaged by lorries at the time of the Hampton Court Flower Show.
- Many eels have been counted in the trap set up recently and the numbers added to the Zoological Society of London survey.

Kathleen Saxton, a long-term resident of Teddington (since 1939) and a Friend of Bushy and Home Parks, died in May this year at the age of 101. She loved Bushy Park and especially enjoyed walking in the Woodland Gardens (until her late nineties) where there is a bench in memory of her granddaughter, Nicola Saxton. Her family have donated £250 towards projects planned for the Woodland Gardens.

Jane Peacock (Kathleen's daughter)

Surbiton & District Birdwatching Society are looking for bird surveyors for Home Park and other local sites. Surveys take about two hours and usually take place at weekends, but sometimes during the week. They are carried out three times each winter season and three times each summer season. Each person would be working with at least one other surveyor and mapper. A surveyor does not need to be an expert on bird calls, but it is useful if they are. Contact Graham Avison on 07770 803365 or at graham.avison@sky.com

25th Anniversary Celebration Evening

This is a special year for the Friends as we mark 25 years since a group of local people got together to oppose the proposed felling of trees in Chestnut Avenue. On Friday 24 July, 150 Friends and invited guests gathered in the Pheasantry Café in Bushy Park for a celebration evening.

We were welcomed by our president, Pieter Morpurgo, who introduced the speaker, and patron of the Friends, Cleve West. Cleve explained that he was born locally, lives in Teddington and runs his business from Hampton Wick. He has worked in horticultural maintenance, hard landscaping and now garden design. He likens gardening to working meditation and values being able to connect with nature. His designs have won several gold medals and two best in show awards at Chelsea Flower Show. Cleve showed photographs of many of his projects, highlighting the use of water features and the combination of traditional with modern elements. As his own garden is small, he also cultivates a large allotment plot in Bushy Park where he particularly likes showing children how their food is grown and cooking his own produce on site.

One major project Cleve has worked on is Horatio's Garden at the Spinal Treatment Centre of Salisbury Hospital. It is named after Horatio Chapple, the 17 year old son of a surgeon at the centre, who had volunteered there and had the idea of creating a garden. When Horatio was killed by a polar bear and £300,000 was raised in his memory, it was decided to build the garden and Cleve, who had spent time at the centre when a friend was a patient, was asked to design it. The garden is flourishing and more are planned at other spinal injury units. Cleve is pleased that the landscapes he designs can have such a positive effect on patients, families and staff, although he still cannot decide whether he prefers gardening or designing!

Annie Murray, current Chair, spoke about the origins of the Friends. She explained that over 25 years more than £100,000 has been raised towards projects in the Parks and highlighted the restoration of the Water Gardens. Annie gave particular thanks to the Colicci team for producing such an excellent spread of food including the special celebration cake created by Mustafa, and to Ray Brodie, Bushy Park manager, for allowing access. The winning ticket in the draw was held by Carolyn Beer who was delighted to receive a framed WH Boot etching.

The Pheasantry Café provided an appropriate venue and the atmosphere of the evening was enhanced with Christopher Hooker's musical accompaniment. A most enjoyable evening seemed to have been had by all.



Cleve West



Past and present Chairs and Managers



Annie Murray and Tania Mathias MP



Chris Hooker



Mustafa



Carolyn Beer



Sumesh and Tania with Ernie Colicci

Bats in the Park walk

Phil Southby



We gathered at Teddington Gate in Bushy Park on the evening of 5 September in the hope of seeing bats. John Tovey, from the London Bat Group, told us that at dusk bats use their eyes to navigate but after dark they “shout” at a frequency which we can only hear with the aid of an electronic bat detector. As we walked into the Park, detectors at the ready, John explained that bats catch small insects as they fly, and that pipistrelle and noctule are the bat species most likely to be seen. As we reached the Broom Clumps area keen-eyed people spotted bats among the tree tops. The coolness of the evening meant that we were unable to see any more but we were able to enjoy John’s explanations about the lives of these fascinating creatures.

From the Membership Secretary

We are almost at renewal time for the 2016 membership year which runs from 1 January. You are welcome to renew your membership before January if you wish - a renewal form for 2016 is included with this newsletter. Subscription fees are unchanged again this year; £6 for individuals (£4 for concessions) and £8 for couples/families (£5 for concessions) but, if you wish to renew by sending in a form, please provide a stamped addressed envelope for the return of your membership card to keep our administrative costs to a minimum. I will send out new membership cards to those members who already pay their subscriptions by Standing Order before the end of the year; so if you have set up a Standing Order you need take no action and please ignore the renewal form.

Thank you for your continuing support to the Friends, and to those members who are kind enough to include donations with their renewal subscriptions.

Jean Smith

New auditor needed

The Trustees are seeking a replacement for Carol Ruddock, who audited the Friends' annual accounts for several years and stepped down at the 2015 AGM. Is anyone interested in taking on this voluntary job? As a small charity the Friends' annual accounts are prepared on a receipts and payments basis, showing how much money is held and has been received and paid out. The financial records are a mixture of hard copy documents, eg invoices and bank statements, and data held on spreadsheets.

Once appointed by the Trustees, the auditor's work will involve liaising with the Treasurer, John Elrick and auditing the 2015 annual accounts. The accounts run from January to December. In January 2016 John will prepare the 2015 accounts which will need to be audited during February in time for the AGM in early March. Any member who is interested needs to be independent of all aspects of the Friends' management, have some knowledge of charity accounting and be able to use spreadsheet data. The audited 2014 accounts are on the website at:

<http://www.fbhp.org.uk/perch/resources/2014-accounts-reports-2.pdf>

If anyone is interested please contact John Elrick on 020 8979 7512 or jandaelrick@btinternet.com

If you have any comments about this newsletter or information you would like to share with us you can email newsletter@fbhp.org.uk

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Electronic newsletter

We would encourage as many Friends as possible to sign up to receive the quarterly newsletter electronically. Please email your request to newsletter@fbhp.org.uk

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