



Newsletter

Autumn 2019

From the Chair

As regular readers will know, I like to offer anecdotes and insights from our experiences as volunteers encountering visitors to the parks. Now that we have our brand-new Visitor Centre open, I am gratified to be told by our volunteers that they just love it. Judging by the comments in our visitors book on the desk at the centre, so do park visitors. We are pleased that the discovery zone and the nature barrow are intriguing and entertaining the many children who have come along. We ask them to draw things they have seen in the park and then we put the drawings on the oakleaf display boards. So far, we have had several dinosaurs and one very large blue whale. When asked where these were spotted the artists replied in similar vein to national politicians; evasive, misleading and unclear. So, I think we are doing our little bit to educate children for future leadership. An overheard conversation involving a family with small children doing some bird-spotting in Bushy Park: "Look, Mummy, that is one of those green paracetamols!"

When I was on duty one day a delightful small girl of about three years old asked me if I should like to know her name? "OK", I said, and she then poured forth about seven forenames and a double-barrelled surname, explaining at the end that it was quite long because she was Portuguese. I congratulated her on being able to remember them all and she gave me a mixed look of achievement coupled with disdain and told me that it was important to know one's name properly. As I have increasing trouble remembering lots of things, I shall try to remember my name so as not to let her down.



We are going to say grateful thanks and goodbye to Ray Brodie at the end of October. Over a period of some 21 years Ray has been responsible for ensuring Bushy Park has become one of London's best-loved parks. As park manager he has seen many changes and developments while also maintaining this historic landscape and its heritage. He admits that it has been a privilege to have such a role; he says, tongue firmly in cheek though with a hint of concern, that the park is a great place if only people didn't

Dates for your diary

Friday 25 October 2019

THE HISTORY OF FELTHAM'S PONDS

Talk by Angela Parton

Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Down Centre, Teddington, TW11 9PS

Commencing at 8.00 pm; refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

Saturday 9 November 2019

WORKING SESSION IN THE WOODLAND GARDENS

Meet 11.00 am

Pheasantry Visitor Centre, Bushy Park

Equipment provided but please bring gardening gloves and suitable footwear

Friday 29 November 2019

THE HISTORY OF THE BARGE WALK FROM KINGSTON BRIDGE TO HAMPTON COURT BRIDGE

Talk by John Previte

Normansfield Theatre, Langdon Down Centre, Teddington, TW11 9PS

Commencing at 8.00 pm; refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

Friday 29 November 2019

HAMPTON HILL PARADE

want to come into it. Anyone who has noted the pride he takes in seeing people respectfully enjoy the park will know that he is strongly on their side. He is retiring to his house near Berwick-upon-Tweed. The clue to this move lies in his surname; there are lots of Brodies in the Borders. Ray has been a great supporter of the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks. We will miss him, and we wish Ray and his wife a long and happy retirement.

Colin Muid

Wanted - Secretary

The Trustees need to appoint a new Secretary to our Board. The role is akin to that of a company secretary, in that it keeps an eye on our legal position within the Charity Commission rules. It is an "officer" required by charity law but actually, for a small charity like ours, does not involve very much work at all over a year. Anyone interested in becoming a Trustee and also anyone interested in taking on the Secretary role should contact Colin Muid, the Chair of Trustees, to discuss it.

A walk on the wild side

Pippa Hyde led more than 70 of us on a sunny morning in June around Bushy Park's Nature Reserve. The first plant we came across was purple woundwort, 'stinking Roger', known to be toxic to other plants. Next we observed green alkanet, a blue plant not to be confused with borage, common name 'sticky Willy'. Several plants were observed as we walked towards the Longford River; yellow rattle, bird's foot trefoil, plantain and buttercups, as well as the ubiquitous bindweed. We came across a small pink/purple flower, the lovely grass vetchling, then an ox-eye daisy and a violet blue plant, *Prunella vulgaris* or 'self heal'. As we started back we were greeted by two Horse Rangers horses wearing fly masks; they came up for a little snack of longer grass. We saw a tall slender plant growing amongst the brambles; this was great lettuce or compass plant which can grow up to 2 metres high. The temperature was rising as we headed back to the Stockyard and thanked Pippa very much for a most interesting walk.



Jane Cliff

Jane Cliff

Summer evening at the Pheasantry



On a balmy evening in July we enjoyed Colicci's buffet supper, were entertained by the Rock Choir, entered the draw to win a chocolate cake and puzzled over photographs in 'The Bushy and Home Parks gates quiz'.

The Royal Parks Guild awards ceremony



On 10 July I attended the annual Royal Parks Guild awards ceremony, in Hyde Park. You will all be delighted to learn that some of our close colleagues were given awards by Loyd Grossman at the ceremony. Terry Gough (left) received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work over many years, culminating in his stewardship of Historic Royal Palaces Gardens and Estates. Ray Brodie (centre) received the Outstanding Achievement Award for his many years' service for the Royal Parks leading to his success as park manager at Bushy Park. John Comfort (right) won the prestigious Wildlife Conservation Award for his management of wildlife, including the deer herds and the fishing in Bushy Park.

Lastly, a special presentation was given by television gardener David Domoney, on behalf of the Guild, to Claire and David Ivison for their colossal work in researching the role of the Royal Parks in the First World War and producing their book about the contribution made by those park staff who served and lost their lives during that war. David and Claire received a specially-commissioned glass sculpture of a First World War soldier.



Colin Muid

Bat walk

At 7.30 pm on Saturday 7 September around 80 people, including a dozen or so children, met at Teddington Gate for a bat walk (right) in Bushy Park. We were led by John Tovey of the London Bat Group who brought along several bat detectors so that we could hear the clicking calls of the bats as they fed on insects. In the avenue of trees near the NPL sports ground we had our first sightings and sounds of the soprano and common pipistrelle bats, two species with bodies not much larger than an adult human thumb. Some of these bats flew very low and at speed across our heads. Reaching open ground on Upper Lodge Road we listened for larger bat species that are known to inhabit the area, the noctule and Leisler's, with some sounds picked up on a sophisticated detector held by John's wife. We ended our walk by the channel outside the Woodland Gardens where we detected the sounds of several Daubenton's bats as they fed on insects at the water surface. After about an hour and a half on a beautiful early autumn evening we left the park having satisfied our curiosity.



Pieter Morpurgo

News from Bushy Park

Since Easter the Volunteer Rangers have been seen in Bushy Park, wearing their bright orange jackets, helping visitors to learn about and enjoy the landscape. The scheme has proved very useful and it is planned to recruit more volunteers next year.



Teddington Village Fair



On 30 June our stall at the Teddington Village Fair, staffed by Jean Smith, Sue Hart and Rosemary MacColl, was visited by Deputy Mayor of Richmond upon Thames Cllr James Chard.

News from Home Park



Congratulations to the Gardens and Estates team at Historic Royal Palaces who won the Garden or Arboretum Team of the Year at the 'Horticulture Week' Custodian Awards. They were praised for the horticultural and environmental best practice used to conserve the historic landscape around Hampton Court Palace.



In August the Prudential RideLondon classic cycle race for professional riders started in Bushy Park for the first time. There were 150 cyclists in 20 teams competing in the 170 kilometre race through Surrey to The Mall.



New visitors to Bushy Park are sometimes surprised to learn that parking is free. The Royal Parks are currently installing donation boxes in the car parks so that visitors who want to support the parks financially can do so. It is planned to start this scheme in October. All money raised will be spent maintaining Bushy Park.

From the Membership Secretary

Thank you to all our members for your support in 2019. We look forward to your continuing support for 2020, and to seeing you at many of the very interesting events that Jane has now finalised for next year. Those of you who pay your subscription by standing order will have the advantage of receiving your 2020 memberships cards, and seeing these events listed, in November as soon as they become available. Others will receive their cards in response to returning a completed renewal form to me with their subscription payment. For this purpose, a renewal form is included with this newsletter, so I encourage you to fill it in straight away and you will soon have the dates for your diary. Do consider selecting the standing order option to avoid a requirement to fill in renewal forms in future, unless to inform me of any change to your contact details. Don't forget we can claim 25 pence for every pound you pay to us if you are able to sign a Gift Aid Declaration form. This is available on our website (<http://www.fbhp.org.uk/perch/resources/gift-aid-form-06-17v2.pdf>), or just let me know if you would like me to send one or check if you have already signed one.

Pat Dickinson

Visitor Centre news



Rosemary MacColl

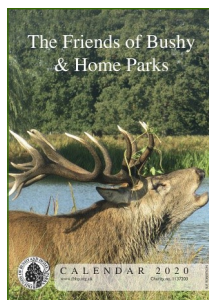
Four young artists were very pleased to show off their art work at the Visitor Centre one morning in August. The discovery zone in the new facility has space for children to draw what they have seen in the park.

The 2020 FBHP calendar is now on sale at the Visitor Centre. Also,

lookout for new items of merchandise that will soon be available as well as Christmas cards.

The Visitor Centre is proving very popular with twice as many people calling in during July and August as were helped at our temporary Information Point during the previous four months.

If you are interested in becoming a Visitor Centre volunteer, please contact Rosemary MacColl whose contact details are given in the adjacent panel.



Personnel changes



Jean Smith (left) has resigned from the committee after 17 years, much of that time as Membership Secretary. We will miss her efficient organising skills. We wish Jean and Bob a happy retirement at their new home in Scotland.

Following the item in the last newsletter, we are pleased to welcome David Meanwell as website editor.

2019 - 2020 Committee

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Find us on 

<https://www.facebook.com/FriendsBushyAndHomeParks/>

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

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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