



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

# Newsletter

Summer 2015

## From the Chair



Summer is upon us and it certainly has been a good year for the roses.

We were fortunate during our walk in Home Park in May to see the shire horses from Operation Centaur hard at work mowing the grass in the time-honoured fashion. It is indeed wonderful to see these magnificent beasts not only at work but helping to protect the parklands. There are seven shire horses stabled at Holly Lodge in Richmond Park and in Home Park. In addition to working in the parks you may also spot them in Ham haymaking. Operation Centaur is an interesting organisation engaged not only in conservation but also in a wide range of projects involving vulnerable young people, prisoners and even executives! To find out more visit [www.operationcentaur.com](http://www.operationcentaur.com)



As I write, work is well underway to complete a further stage of restoration in the Water Gardens which the Friends have been involved in for over 20 years. Trompe l'oeil panels have been installed in the arches to recreate the tunnel effect as detailed in the painting by Carlo Ricci. We are most grateful to Margaret Stedman for her donation towards this project. Margaret is not only a long-time supporter of the Friends but was also a member of the committee for many years.

After discussion with parks management we are planning to use some of our appeals money for water plants in Home Park and further planting in the Woodlands Bog Garden. Thanks to all the gardeners who have made the new planting look so impressive.

**Annie Murray**

## Dates for your diary

**Friday 24 July 2015**

### 25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**With a talk by Cleve West**

Pheasantry Café, Woodland Gardens, Bushy Park  
*Tickets (available to members only) from Rosemary MacColl – see back page for contact details.*

**Sunday 2 August 2015**

### PRUDENTIAL RIDELONDON CYCLING

Hampton Court Road closed all day for event

### HAMPTON WICK FESTIVAL

From 12.00 noon

**Saturday 5 September 2015**

### BATS IN THE PARK

**Walk led by John Tovey**

Meet at 7.30 pm at Teddington Gate, Bushy Park

**Thursday 24 September 2015**

### THE ANCIENT AND VETERAN TREES OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

**Talk by Jamie Simpson**

St John Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, commencing at 8.00 pm  
Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

**Thursday 22 October 2015**

### RESTORATION GARDEN / GARDEN RESTORATION

**Talk by Patrick Kelly, Ham House**

St John Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, commencing at 8.00 pm  
Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Tyrrell Marris. In 1994 Tyrrell started surveying and mapping the mistletoe growing on trees in Home and Bushy Parks. From 2000 he invited the Friends to join his annual walk, held on the Saturday in February nearest to St. Valentine's

Day, through Home Park to hear about the science and mythology associated with this familiar plant. Such was his enthusiasm for mistletoe that the walks regularly attracted more than 60 Friends and his surveys enabled the spread of the plant to be tracked over time.

## Brick by Brick – the building and buildings of Hampton Wick talk

Ray Elmitt moved to The Grove in Hampton Wick more than 40 years ago. As a retirement project he set out to document the history of his home. Some years later those modest beginnings have turned into a series of three books and a website describing the origins and inhabitants of all 650 houses in the parish. The books are divided into two sections - the first gives the history of every building and the second guides the reader on an illustrated walk along each street.

In Ray's talk on 23 April he gave us an overview of the history of Hampton Wick, and particularly its relationship with Home and Bushy Parks. He explained the sources he has used to build up such a detailed picture of this area situated between Kingston and Hampton Court. Further information can be found at: [www.hamptonwickhistory.org.uk](http://www.hamptonwickhistory.org.uk)

## Chestnut Sunday



The fine weather on 10 May encouraged many people to come to Bushy Park for Chestnut Sunday. A group of Information Point volunteers took part in the parade and our stall did brisk business enrolling new members and selling merchandise.

## Mini Beast Hunt



On 2 May entomologist Stuart Cole and a group of Friends led a mini beast hunt in Woodland Gardens. Our young explorers were excited to find many insects living in the decaying trees.

## Home Park Paddocks walk



The walk led by Nicholas Garbutt, Tree and Wildlife Conservation Manager at Historic Royal Palaces, on 16 May covered a variety of terrain and included encounters with a range of creatures. We started at Lion Gate, went through the Wilderness area and along the East Front of Hampton Court Palace to a viewpoint from which we could see a regatta taking place on the River Thames. Then we went into Home Park, down the lime avenue beside the golf course and onto the towpath to see one of the outflow points of the Longford River into the Thames. Nicholas then took us into the Royal Paddocks area, not usually open to the public, and back through Home Park to finish our walk with a visit to the Ice House.

We saw a large group of deer running across the golf course, sand martins flying around Raven's Ait and two shire horses from Operation Centaur (see page 1) cutting the grass in the sports field area. At the eel trap (above) in the Royal Paddocks, Nicholas was pleased to find two young eels which were measured and returned as part of the elver monitoring project being coordinated by the Zoological Society of London. Nicholas also pointed out various aspects of the management of the estate. On the Barge Walk railings are being repaired, in the formal gardens wetland plant species are being planted at the margins of the canal and in Home Park the European lime trees are being carefully monitored.

## Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in Bushy and Home Parks talk

With the recent confirmation of the SSSI status for Bushy and Home Parks, it was opportune that Julia Clark (Head of Ecology, The Royal Parks) was joined by Nicholas Garbutt on 28 May to give us an insight into what this means for the two parks. The three aspects of the parks which led to the designation are the areas of acid grassland, the number of veteran trees and the range of invertebrates living on dead wood. The staff of both parks are working hard to balance the ecological needs with their use by people, including some with dogs. Surveys of current numbers of eels, reptiles and bats are being carried out, as well as plans for the future management of these special areas.

## Old Hampton Village walk

It may have been mid June, but the weather was not summery when we gathered at Hampton Church to follow Johanna Coombes, a Richmond Heritage Guide, on a walk around the village. Johanna set the history of Hampton into a local and national context from 1066 to the present day, and introduced us to some of the local characters who have played their parts in the story.

We heard about Walter de St Valéry who was given the land by William the Conqueror. Sibell Penn, nurse to Prince Edward son of Henry VIII, lived in the village, is buried in the church and is said to haunt Hampton Court Palace. The actor David Garrick came to Hampton in 1754, enlarged a riverside house and built a temple to Shakespeare in the garden. The largest memorial in the churchyard is to Dominican sugar planter John Greg and his wife Catharine. We saw the blue plaque to Alan Turing who lived in High Street from 1945 to 1947 and heard how he used to run to work at the National Physical Laboratory. Our interesting tour ended at the station where Johanna described how various means of transport have influenced the development of Hampton.



## News from Bushy Park

- After three years as Chief Executive Officer of The Royal Parks (TRP), Linda Lennon will be leaving in July to take up the post of CEO for London Stadium 185 (The Olympic Stadium). Her replacement at TRP will be Andrew Scattergood.

- The final touches have now been added to the Water Gardens; do go and see what has replaced the bare bricks!



- TRP staff and volunteers have been surveying oak trees in the park for signs of Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars. Where evidence has been found you may see contract staff in protective clothing removing the caterpillar nests. For further information go to: <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/bushy-park/visitor-information/oak-processionary-moth>

- You may have noticed a new building appearing behind the Pheasantry Café. This is to provide more extensive facilities for the gardening volunteers.



## News from Home Park

- On 29 March Home Park hosted the inaugural running of the Hampton Court Palace Half Marathon. More than 2,400 participants ran the course from the Palace, along the towpath and through Home Park to the finish.



- It has been announced that from winter 2016/17 free access will no longer be available to the formal gardens at Hampton Court Palace via the Governor's Gate (that's the gate between the Wilderness and the gardens on the east front). The current arrangement of free access during winter has been in place for 12 years or so. There has been a 'garden only' ticket available since then, but this has not proved popular; so it has been decided that to see the gardens from winter 2016 should be part of the whole Hampton Court Palace experience. The Wilderness, the new Kitchen Garden, Home Park and Barge Walk will continue to have free access.

## Field Studies Council

Since 2011 the Field Studies Council has been responsible for education in Bushy Park, based at the Stockyard. They provide courses for school groups, adults and families, in the area of meadowland and ponds not open to the public. They plan to increase and improve the current facilities. For further details see <http://field-studies-council.org/centres/london/outdoor-classroom/royal-parks.aspx>

## Membership

Thank you to all members who have renewed for 2015 and for your continuing support. I am currently reviewing the membership records and will shortly be removing those members who have not renewed from our membership list; so if you have not renewed this may be your last newsletter. We will be sending an email reminder to those members



*Jean working on her plot at the Hampton Hill Allotments Open Day on 9 May*

who have provided us with their email address in the next few weeks but if you have not yet renewed for 2015 (the membership year runs from 1 January) and would like to do so please send your subscription to: Jean Smith, 55 Elmfield Avenue, Teddington, TW11 8BX with details of your name and address. If you have renewed for this year you should already have a lavender coloured membership card.

You can download a renewal form from the website at <http://www.fbhp.org.uk/perch/resources/2015-renewal-form-1.pdf> and you can also set up a standing order using that form if you wish. Subscriptions are as follows: Individual £6, Couple £8, Concession individual £4, Concession couple £5.

**Jean Smith**

## Volunteering

Now that the weather has warmed up over the spring, we have re-established our usual opening hours of 11.00 am to 3.00 pm at weekends and Bank Holiday Mondays at the Information Point in Bushy Park. We are usually busy, particularly on fine days and Bank Holiday weekends. This puts extra stress on the car parks and the Woodland Gardens around the café area but visitors are always in good spirits and really enjoy learning about the park from the volunteers. Visitor numbers are growing all the time and they can have a detrimental impact on the flora and fauna which we as the Friends are keen to help protect; so our education role at the Information Point is really important in this respect.

We want to increase the number of volunteers in the team; so, if you have a couple of hours to spare at the weekends each month, and would like to share your enthusiasm of the park with visitors, email [rosemary.maccoll@fbhp.org.uk](mailto:rosemary.maccoll@fbhp.org.uk) or telephone 020 8943 4814 for more details.

**Rosemary MacColl**

## Committee

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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](mailto: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](mailto:newsletter@fbhp.org.uk)

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