



Newsletter

Summer 2018

From the Chair

Summer is here. Skylarks can be heard singing on the wing. Not just in our parks but even at the ends of Heathrow Airport runways. I heard them a few days ago, singing cheerfully between flights landing and taking off which just goes to show how nature adapts. We all adapt. I was reading the Friends' newsletter from 2002 and I saw that back then we were concerned about the change in status of the Royal Parks to become a non-departmental public body; also, we were concerned about the Royal Parks Constabulary becoming part of the Metropolitan Police. In each case the effects on public funding and reduced resources being of major concern to the Friends. Well, when I became Chair two years ago we had similar concerns about the changing status of The Royal Parks to become a charity and about the effects of reduction in police resources due to cuts in their budget. Plus ça change. To survive we adapt to the prevailing circumstances. The alternative is not so good.



I recently attended the awards ceremony of The Royal Parks Guild, when long serving members of staff were awarded for outstanding and meritorious service. The Guild is an organisation supporting park apprenticeships and includes those who work for Historic Royal Palaces. It was a wonderfully informal occasion and included an award to Sir David Attenborough for his promotion and support of Richmond Park. He received a specially-commissioned glass sculpture of a stag beetle, a creature he described as being as exotic and interesting as any in the world. He should know. We have stag beetles in Bushy and Home Parks. I hope visitors to the parks appreciate they are in the realm of exotic creatures. Stag beetles need dead wood to survive. Dead wood is not dead to them.

In the coming 12 to 18 months I anticipate a busy time in Bushy Park. 2019 will be the 75th anniversary of D-Day, and the Friends

Dates for your diary

Friday 13 July 2018

A SUMMER EVENING AT THE PHEASANTRY
Pheasantry Café, Woodland Gardens, Bushy Park
(For members with tickets only)

Tuesday 14 August 2018

MISSION INVERTEBRATE

Discover magnificent minibeasts

11 am to 3 pm at the playground, Bushy Park
(No booking required for this family event run by The Royal Parks)

Saturday 1 September 2018

MOLESEY RIVERSIDE AND HURST PARK

Led by Jill Sanders

Meet 11 am at Hurst Park car park, Graburn Way, East Molesey

Thursday 27 September 2018

BATS IN RICHMOND AND BUSHY PARKS

Talk by Adam Curtis

St John Ambulance Hall, Park Road, Teddington, commencing at 8 pm

Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

General Data Protection Regulations

In view of the General Data Protection Regulations which came into force on 28 May 2018, the Friends of Bushy and Home Parks Personal Data Privacy Policy has been updated. The full text can be found on the Friends' website at [About Us / Formal Documents / FBHP Policies / Personal Data Privacy Policy Notice](#)

intend to reflect this historic event and Bushy Park's place in it. Furthermore, we hope to see the construction of a new Information Point. This will allow the Friends to operate an improved educational and advice service to visitors while giving the volunteers a better working environment. We will establish an appeal to fit out this new space for 21st century operation and to be an enhancement to the park's facilities. Another innovation will be how The Royal Parks plan to address the problems of poor visitor behaviour. This is to be a significant initiative and the Friends intend to help them with their plans. We will continue to adapt to circumstances and, like the skylarks, we can visit the parks to stay cheerful.

Colin Muid

'Grace and favour residents at Hampton Court Palace' talk

Ian Franklin has been a state apartment warder at Hampton Court for more than 20 years. At our April talk he used that experience and his extensive research to tell us about some of the people who have lived at the Palace over the past 250 years. After George III became king in 1760 he decided not to live at Hampton Court; so many of the rooms were made into apartments for people who had served the country. They were not charged any rent, but they did have to pay for any maintenance carried out by the Office of Works.

Sophia Duleep Singh, daughter of the last maharaja of the Punjab and goddaughter of Queen Victoria, had an apartment in Faraday House (opposite the Palace) from 1898 to 1945. She was a campaigner for women's suffrage and refused to complete the 1911 census, writing 'No Vote, No Census' across the form. Grand Duchess Xenia, sister of Nicholas the last tsar of Russia, lived in Wilderness House from 1937 until her death in 1960. Princess Frederica of Hanover and her husband, Alfons, lived in the apartment to the right of the gatehouse from 1880 to 1898. Alfons was the last person to have shooting rights in Bushy Park and Frederica was involved in many local charities, including setting up a home for women who had recently given birth.

The novelist Eva Mary Bell, widow of Captain George Bell who died in World War 1, wrote letters to Indian soldiers and their families in both world wars. Lady Olave Baden-Powell, Chief Guide and widow of the founder of the Scouts, lived at Hampton Court from 1942 to 1974.

Ian used photographs and images of original documents, some from his own collection, to illustrate his wide-ranging talk. A postcard, dating from World War 2, showed a concrete pill box, sited just outside the Palace, disguised as an ice cream kiosk! If you have any stories or objects relating to more recent residents of Hampton Court Palace, please contact the Memories Project at curatorial.volunteers@hrp.org.uk



Princess Sophia Duleep Singh selling "The Suffragette" outside Hampton Court Palace, where she has a suite of apartments.

'Trees of Bushy Park' walk

One of the reasons that Bushy Park was awarded Site of Special Scientific Interest status in 2015 was for its ancient and veteran trees. On a sunny Saturday morning in May more than 80 people took the opportunity of being taken on a walk to hear about the trees guided by Ray Brodie, the park manager. We started in the Woodland Gardens, crossed Ash Walk into the Waterhouse Plantation, then went down Lime Walk and back to the Pheasantry. On the way Ray pointed out some of the rare and important trees, and explained aspects of arboricultural practice that are needed to maintain a balance of biodiverse habitat for wildlife and safety for human visitors.



Some of the most notable trees are not the largest. The daimyo oak, situated near the Ash Walk gate of the Woodland Gardens, is a small tree with enormous leaves; the multi-stemmed Chinese yellow wood, in the Waterhouse area, is a UK champion tree (the largest of its species in the country); and many of the very old hawthorn bushes, generally with white flowers but some having dark pink, grow in many areas of the park. Ray used some of the largest trees near the Pheasantry Café to illustrate management methods. The sweet chestnut has been fenced as it has dropped a large limb; the English oak has been affected by oak processionary moth caterpillars; the cedar of Lebanon has been fenced and pruned for safety and to protect neighbouring trees; and the big cone pines have their cones removed before they drop.

The trees and bushes are essential elements of the historic landscape of the park, especially those that form the avenues. Their management has to take into account the needs of the present inhabitants, such as deer and insects, while looking towards long-term plans. Ray was thanked for providing such an engaging insight.

With thanks to Pieter Morpurgo for additional notes

Chestnut Sunday in pictures



Even more Bushy Parks

On a holiday to Australia in March we took the opportunity to visit two more Bushy Parks.

Bushy Park Wetlands is a 30-hectare conservation area in the Glen Waverley suburb of Melbourne looked after by Parks Victoria. The name seems to come from the original homestead on the land which was farmed in the 1840s by Alexander and Madeline Scott who came from Edinburgh. The information sheet states; "This is a great park for walking, cycling or bird watching."



Bushy Park Wetlands, Melbourne



Hawthorn Lodge, Bushy Park, Tasmania



Horse chestnut avenue, Bushy Park, Tasmania

Bushy Park in Tasmania is a small settlement in the Derwent Valley, 35 miles north west of Hobart. It was originally called Humphreyville, after its first owner, a Mr Humphrey. In 1835 William Blyth (who seems to have been born in Kingston in 1812 to an Essex family) arrived in Hobart with a letter of introduction to Dr William Crowther. Six weeks later Mr Blyth married Elizabeth, Dr Crowther's only daughter, and they eventually had 14 children. Blyth bought Humphreyville in 1850 and changed the name to Bushy Park, according to one source, "after Bushy Park near Teddington on the River Thames, noted for its magnificent double avenue of chestnut trees". In 1867 Blyth sold Bushy Park to the Shoobridge family who were hop growers. This type of agriculture continues to the present day and the village is known as the hop capital of Tasmania.

There is an avenue of horse chestnut trees – the only ones we spotted during our week in Tasmania! There is also a Hawthorn Lodge. We have been unable to find a link between William Blyth and the area around our Bushy Park; we would be interested to hear if anyone has any knowledge of the family.

David and Claire Ivison

Calling all photographers!

We are now seeking photographs of the views, flora and fauna in both Bushy and Home Parks for the FBHP 2019 calendar. This year's calendar was a great success with an increased number of copies sold over previous years. Profits from the sale of the calendar go towards various projects within the parks which FBHP help to fund.

Photos should be in landscape orientation, saved as jpegs and should feature images representing the seasons in the parks. Please rename your photos (no more than six per person) with your surname, name of the subject and date taken, and email them to: fbhpdigitalphotolibrary@yahoo.com by 15 July. Do not put photos in the body of an email but send as an attachment. Photos selected will be credited on the calendar with the photographer's name.

We look forward to receiving your photos!

Rosemary MacColl



Rosemary MacColl

From the archives



As you walk, cycle, run or drive past the two small buildings, known as Gun Lodge, which flank the locked gates from Bushy House into Bushy Park you may not realise that they have, at times, been put to residential use. Each single-storey building is about four metres square; the left one contained a sitting room, kitchen and scullery while the other consisted of two small bedrooms.

In the 1871 census the occupants were Henry Tattam, his wife Emma and their three, young children. Henry was a 47-year-old sergeant of police. At that time Prince Louis, Duc de Nemours, the second son of the last king of France was living in Bushy

House at the invitation of Queen Victoria. Twenty years earlier Queen Marie Amélie, the widowed mother of Prince Louis, was residing at Claremont House, Esher and Henry Tattam was a police constable living in the stable yard.

Henry and Emma had five children; two of their daughters died young and were buried in Esher. The three children who were listed at Gun Lodge in 1871 were still there with their parents in 1891; Henry was 28 and a civil service clerk, while Marie (26) and Alice (24) were post office clerks. Both Marie and Henry junior married, and Emma died in 1906; so, by the 1911 census just Alice and her father were living there. Henry died on 22 August 1912 and a notice in the London Standard newspaper four days later stated that "the funeral takes place at Esher tomorrow of the late Mr Henry Tattam, aged 89, who for 18 years was the confidential attendant of King Louis Philippe and Queen Marie Amélie when they resided at Claremont". It seems that Henry had a close association with the French royal family. He even named one of his daughters (Marie Amélie) after the queen and gave his son the middle name of Claremont after their residence.

Field Studies Council opportunities

The Field Studies Council, who run environmental courses for adults and children from their base in the Stockyard at Bushy Park, are looking for more volunteers to help with school visits and study days. If you are interested and would like further information, please contact Maaïke Milligan m.milligan@field-studies-council.org

Lifts to events

An email from a member wondering if someone living in his area might be able to offer a lift to our events made us think that perhaps we could put people needing transport in contact with those able to give rides. If you could offer transport or would like a lift, particularly to evening talks in Teddington, please contact us at newsletter@fbhp.org.uk and we will try to link people with those in similar areas.

News from Home Park

• The Barn Owl Manor, provided by donations from the Friends, and installed in the paddocks area in early 2017, has been used not by a barn owl, but a little owl. This image was taken on the motion-sensor camera also supplied by the Friends last year.



• If you have been in the part of Home Park between the East Front of Hampton Court and the golf course in recent weeks you may have noticed some activity in a fenced area. This marks the creation of a tribute garden at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show as part of the 'Battlefields to Butterflies' project commemorating the 24 Royal Parks and Palaces gardeners and park keepers who lost their lives in World War 1. The project is in partnership with The Royal Parks Guild, and the garden is being made by Historic Royal Palaces gardeners with help from volunteers.



• After almost seven years with Historic Royal Palaces, Paul Gray has left his post of Palaces Group Director (including Hampton Court). We wish him well in his new position as Chief Operating Officer at the National Gallery.



News from Bushy Park

• The refurbishment of the hotel at Hampton Court Gate has provided the opportunity to install, as part of the development, a new pedestrian gate between the hotel and the road. This will improve the safety of pedestrians using this busy gateway.



• In May we bade farewell to Tania Moreno who has been the manager for Colicci at the Pheasantry Café for the past five years. She is returning to her native Spain and planning to open a tapas bar, with her brother, in La Rioja.

• Over the next few months visitors to the park will notice arborists dressed in protective overalls, masks and gloves climbing trees to remove the nests made by caterpillars of the oak processionary moth. The caterpillars congregate together in mounds, covered in web like strands, to pupate. The hairs that are shed are harmful to visitors and animals alike leading to painful rashes and swelling. Careful removal of the nests by hand reduces the chance of the hairs becoming airborne and spread by wind, and also reduces the number of pupating moths.



• The azaleas we planted at the Friends' working session in March have taken well and are providing a good display at the edge of Triss's Island. The head gardener, Sharon Evans, has plans to increase the number of azalea varieties within the Woodland Gardens.



Vacancy for a new Treasurer from 2019

The Trustees are seeking a replacement for John Elrick, who will stand down as the Friends' Treasurer at the 2019 AGM after six years in the post. The annual accounts run from January to December and John will prepare the 2018 accounts in time for the AGM in March 2019.

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, e.g. invoices and bank statements, and data held on spreadsheets.

The new Treasurer's work will involve:

- Banking of receipts and payment of bills and expenses.
- Maintenance of the detailed financial records in spreadsheet form.
- Preparation of the annual accounts for audit and presentation to the AGM.
- Reporting to and communicating with the other Trustees, the auditor, the Charities Commission and HMRC.
- Attending FBHP Committee meetings as Treasurer and as a Trustee and providing regular financial reports to the Committee.

The audited 2017 accounts are on the FBHP web site in About Us / Formal Documents / Annual Accounts. If anyone is interested please contact John Elrick, who is happy to provide more information. John can be contacted on 020 8979 7512 or jandaelrick@btinternet.com

Children's nature trail



Children enjoying activities led by Diana Lewis and Jane Cliff in the Woodland Gardens on 12 May.

National Physical Laboratory wellness walk



Colin Muid and Friends lead the way around Bushy Park on 16 May.

2018 - 2019 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

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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