



# Newsletter

Winter 2018

## From the Chair

Members and visitors to the parks do not see the Friends' work that is hidden from view; the things our volunteers, newsletter distributors, officers and trustees are doing to fulfil the Friends' mission. The turn of the year is an appropriate time to celebrate some of the individuals' work.



Membership secretary, Pat Dickinson, and our newsletter editors, Claire and David Ivison, interact directly with 1,000 or so members, but it is only the tip of the iceberg of their work. Members enjoy Jane Cliff's organisation of exceptional talks and walks given by experts that never fail to please us. Our Information Point volunteers engage with visitors to provide knowledge, advice and assistance, always freely and enthusiastically given. Rosemary MacColl organises the volunteers with patience and persistence. Sue Robertson is improving our information resources and merchandise. Diana Lewis illustrates many of our leaflets and posters. David Griffiths, Mark Buckley and Carol Dukes keep our website going; our new photographic library is organised by Janet Baylis; Pieter Morpurgo gives talks to other communities which produce significant donations to our appeal funds. Others contribute in diverse ways, and throughout the year the trustees and officers manage our charity. On your behalf, I thank them all.

Our major donations to the parks during 2017 have been: completion of the Water Gardens restoration with the stoup basin hoods, new planting on Triss's Island, plant labelling equipment for Bushy Park, a barn owl manor in Home Park, a motion sensing camera in Home Park for wildlife detection, and planting in the Long Water.

2018 beckons. Undoubtedly pressures on the parks will increase. We will continue to support their conservation, and aim to enhance visitors' enjoyment with respect for these wonderful spaces. Best wishes of the season to you,

**Colin Muid**

## Dates for your diary

**Thursday 25 January 2018**

### **ENCOUNTERS IN BUSHY PARK - A PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD**

**Talk by Iggy Tavares**

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

Refreshments will be available from 7.15 pm

**Saturday 17 February 2018**

### **A WALK AROUND TWICKENHAM RIVERSIDE Led by Johanna Coombes**

Meet 11 am at St Mary's Church, Church Street, Twickenham. *(There is a charge of £5 per head for this visit and booking is essential. Contact Jane Cliff on [walksandtalks@fbhp.org.uk](mailto:walksandtalks@fbhp.org.uk) or 020 8287 4609)*

**Friday 2 March 2018**

### **THE ROYAL PARKS IN THE 21ST CENTURY Talk by Loyd Grossman, Chairman of The Royal Parks Board**

Commencing at 7.30 pm, refreshments from 7 pm

### **followed by ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

*(See details and agenda on page 2)*

**Saturday 10 March 2018**

### **PLANTING IN THE WOODLAND GARDENS**

Meet 11.00 am

Pheasantry Information Point, Bushy Park  
*Equipment provided but please bring gardening gloves and suitable footwear. Access to the site will involve crossing a ditch.*

**Saturday 24 March 2018**

### **HOME PARK**

**Walk led by Russell Downs**

Meet 11 am at Lion Gate, Hampton Court

## Children's nature trail

On 14 October Jane Cliff and Diana Lewis led an autumn nature trail for children in the Woodland Gardens. Trees and birds were identified, a quiz was answered and crowns were created from fallen leaves.



## FRIENDS OF BUSHY AND HOME PARKS

### Annual General Meeting - Friday 2 March 2018

The AGM will be held at The National Physical Laboratory, Teddington, Middlesex, TW11 0LW  
Entry by the main gate in Hampton Road, Teddington where there is limited car parking. Doors open and refreshments from 7 pm, talk by Loyd Grossman commencing at 7.30 pm and AGM scheduled for 8.30 pm.

#### AGENDA

- Apologies for absence
- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3 March 2017
- Matters arising
- Annual Report for 2017
- Amendment to the Constitution:

The current Clause 7.5 reads as follows:

***“7.5 Members shall pay a subscription for the current year on joining the Charity and thereafter annual subscriptions due on 3 January. Subscription amounts shall be proposed and approved at the Annual General Meeting held in the year before the due date.”***

Current practice is for the membership of members joining on or after 1 September to be valid until 31 December of the following year. Trustees propose that the eligibility date for the extended membership be changed to 1 October and that the wording of the Constitution be amended to clarify the practice, as follows:

***“7.5 Members shall pay an annual subscription due on 3 January. Subscription rates for the different classes of members shall be proposed and approved at the AGM held in the year before the due date.***

***7.6 New members shall pay the annual subscription on joining the Charity. Where the join date falls before 1 October this shall apply to the current year. Where the join date falls on or after 1 October it shall apply to the following year and the remainder of the current year.”***

- Financial Report and adoption of the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017
- Election of the Committee of Trustees comprising the Trustees and other Committee Members\*
- Appointment of Auditor
- Appeals 2017 and 2018
- Any other business

\*If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member or trustee, Colin Muid would be very happy to give you more information (contact details on back of this Newsletter).

### Hampton Hill Christmas Parade

A cold evening in late November found a group of Friends volunteers warmly dressed to take our places on the trailer for the Hampton Hill Parade. Many thanks to Turfsoil for supplying the tractor and trailer, together with Tom, our regular driver. The decorated vehicle provided a fitting finale to the event for the many spectators.



### Carol singing at The Pheasantry



On 16 December we were pleased to welcome, for the third year, the Quire of Thames Ditton to entertain visitors and Information Point volunteers with Christmas carols old and new. Debbie Lammin led the choir and encouraged those gathered outside the café to join in the singing.



## Lancelot 'Capability' Brown as seen through the eyes of John Spyers talk

© State Hermitage Museum



In the summer of 2016, to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot Brown, an exhibition of drawings showing views of Hampton Court and Bushy Park during his lifetime was held in Hampton Court Palace. On 27 September Terry Gough, Head of Gardens and Estates at Historic Royal Palaces, showed how those pictures and John Spyers, Brown's surveyor and artist who drew them, fit into the history of the palace. Spyers was born in Twickenham and came from a family of nurserymen.

'Capability' Brown, already well-known for his ability to design estates, was appointed Master Gardener at Hampton Court in 1764 and worked there until his death in 1783. He lived in Wilderness House with his wife and nine children. Although Brown worked on more than 170 gardens in England and never travelled abroad, his style influenced landscape

design across Europe. Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia, wanted Brown to work for her but he refused. She bought some of the drawings produced by Spyers and they were added to her collection of art treasures which later became the basis of the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg. The drawings were rediscovered by a curator in 2000.

Terry explained that maps and plans of Brown's work at Hampton Court exist, but Spyers' drawings show additional details, such as the fact that the many yew trees were not clipped. Some of the drawings can be precisely located in the current landscapes of Hampton Court, Home Park and Bushy Park. Terry has worked at Hampton Court for more than 20 years and his enthusiasm for the gardens and their history made for a fascinating evening.

## The Bargeway

The Bargeway (now known as Barge Walk) runs from Kingston Bridge to Hampton Court Bridge. From early days until modern times it was the towpath and was used to tow barges upriver by horse. The right to tow barges was important and valuable. In 1688 and again in 1697 the Crown granted a lease to Jasper English of "the Kings Meadows underlying the Park" and "the right to tow barges by horse". The leases were extended to 1805.

Maps and plans exist showing the towpath and the adjacent land between the towpath and the meadows which border Home Park. An early map of Hampton Court, Teddington and Kingston is one made by John Roque between 1741 and 1745, being part of his Survey of London. At that time there were no houses abutting the Bargeway. Two other interesting points are firstly, that an area of the park below Long Water is shown planted with trees and named "Lower Wilderness" and, secondly, the island now known as Raven's Ait is named Ravens Arse. This name appears again in the 1795 map prepared for Mr Somerset English, which is much the most interesting and most detailed map of the Bargeway. This map shows the river bank and towpath from Old Kingston Bridge to the Bowling Green (Pavilion) opposite Thames Ditton church. It shows the plots of land on which there are now houses but there are no dwellings. Dwellings (Parkfield and The Wilderness) first appear on a map in 1804.

A feature of historical and engineering significance is the conduit (a large lead pipe) from Coombe Hill to Hampton Court which was installed on the instructions of Cardinal Wolsey in about 1515 to bring fresh water to his palace. Later there were three conduit houses on Coombe Hill; Gallows Conduit, Ivy Conduit and Coombe Conduit (the only one now standing). The pipe ran from Coombe Hill past what is now Norbiton Station and County Hall to the River Thames. On both sides of the river, at the points where the pipe was laid on the river bed, there were small structures called tamkins or plug houses, inside which the pipe was exposed and could be temporarily sealed off if it was necessary to do repairs. The tamkin on the Hampton Court side of the river was in the garden of The Wilderness. Nothing of it now remains except, possibly, a large block of stone which looks like a lintel and could have been part of the tamkin. One tamkin still stands: Gallows Tamkin on Coombe Wood golf course. Other interesting features on the 1795 map are: aytes (islands) just above Kingston Bridge, close to The Wilderness, and close to Ravens Arse, all of which have fish traps near them; and the sailing and rowing vessels on the river.

**John Previte**

*The Somerset English map is too big to reproduce here but we hope to provide an opportunity to see it at one of our events.*

## 120 years of model yachting in Home Park



If you have spent time in Home Park you may well have seen the model yachts racing on the Rick Pond. This activity has a long history, with model yacht racing in one form or another having taken place here since 1897, following the founding of the Surbiton Model Yacht Club in 1893 by the Rev Leonard Sampson Lewis-Low. By the 1920s there were three clubs using the lake, each with a boat store, but following various mergers there has been just one since 1996 - the Hampton Court Model Yacht Club.

Traditionally the models had wind vanes linked to the rudder to keep them on a straight course, and they raced just up and down the lake, but with the advent of modern radio-controlled equipment they can now race around buoys to rules similar to those for full-sized yachts. Some vintage days are, however, still held for vane boats. All require careful tuning of their rigs to obtain maximum performance.

The Hampton Court Model Yacht Club, with over 60 members, is one of the largest and most active in the country and hosts events at local, district and national levels. We have our own clubhouse, dating from the 1930s, and a small car park. Five different classes of boat are sailed, varying in size from 0.5 to 2 metres long, and the club promotes friendly and competitive racing which takes place up to three times per week throughout the year, conditions permitting.

The Rick Pond's water comes from the Longford River system which, via Bushy Park, feeds all the ornamental gardens of Hampton Court, then flows down the Long Water into the Rick Pond before departing into the River Thames. The lake has a fairly open aspect with mainly prevailing south westerly winds running straight up the length of the pond. The southern end of the lake was extended by about 100 feet in 1931 to 1,010 feet in length but more recently this was filled in again, taking the lake back to near its former length to allow avenues of trees to be planted so as to return the park to the layout designed by Charles II.

On a nice day it is a fine sight to see a fleet of a dozen or so yachts slicing through the water inches apart in a stiff breeze. Do come and see us sometime - maybe even have a go! New members are always welcome and club boats are available to try. You can find us at the Rick Pond from about 10 am on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. More details at [www.hcmyp.org/](http://www.hcmyp.org/)



**Martin Bone, Hampton Court Model Yacht Club**

## Introduction to the wonders of fungi talk



With the aid of stunning photographs Brian Spooner, former Head of Mycology at Kew Gardens, illustrated the wide range of forms that fungi take. He explained that although they are not plants, they are intimately connected with flora.

There are fungi in all habitats and it is not known how many species exist. Toadstools grow in soil, rotten wood and plant matter, and all trees have fungal partners, enabling them to take in more moisture. Fungi rot down organic matter, and provide food for invertebrates and small mammals. Some species are edible, but others can be deadly if eaten by humans. Yeast for fermentation and brewing, and antibiotics are derived from fungi. Brian's talk provided an interesting insight into the largely unknown world of mushrooms and toadstools.



## The Royal Parks in the Great War talk

When David and I retired in 2013 we looked for something interesting to fill our time, as well as producing and distributing this newsletter. A call from The Royal Parks to find out what happened in the parks during World War I seems to have filled the void. Our research has resulted in a book and contributed to a Heritage Lottery-funded project.

David's talk in November used many of the contemporary photographs from his book to illustrate the events that took place in the parks from the start of World War I in August 1914, when vehicles were being requisitioned and men called to arms, until the armistice in November 1918 and through to the peace celebrations of July 1919. Lakes were drained and buildings erected, trenches were dug, hospitals were set up, post was distributed, areas of grassland were cultivated and allotment plots were created. Ideas to aid the war effort were explored, including camouflage, remote-controlled boats, an aerial ropeway and barrage balloons. Soldiers were accommodated in tents, parades were organised and acts of remembrance were held. There is now very little physical trace of any of these happenings in the parks; so the photographs were an illuminating view into the events of 100 years ago.



*Wards and buildings of the King's Canadian Convalescent Hospital, Upper Lodge, Bushy Park. By kind permission of Ken Howe*

The Royal Parks in the Great War is a project jointly led by The Royal Parks and The Royal Parks Guild to commemorate the part played by the Royal Parks in the war. As part of the project it is intended to publish online David's book called ***The Royal Parks in the Great War*** in summer 2018. For more information on the research being carried out, volunteer opportunities and planned events over the next 18 months go to <https://www.royalparks.org.uk/get-involved/the-royal-parks-in-world-war-i> or <http://www.trpg.org.uk/history/history.php>

**Claire Ivison**

## Oak processionary moth report 2017

On 28 November Gillian Jonusas, arboriculturalist at The Royal Parks, updated the oak processionary moth volunteer survey group on the results of the control operations at Bushy Park in 2017. The toxic hairs from the caterpillars of this non-native invasive moth can pose a threat to the health of humans and animals, and the park has, for the last seven years, been proactive in the control of the pest.

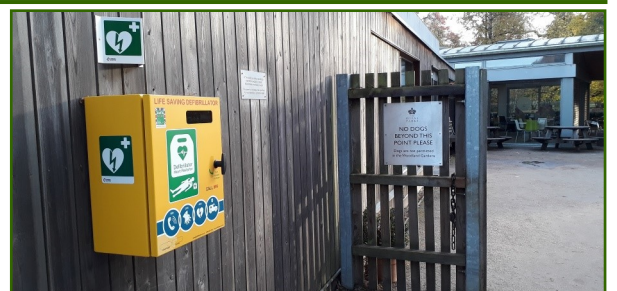
This year over 750 nests (where caterpillars congregate to pupate) were removed from the park, a big drop from the 1,446 found in 2016. There was an average of 2.6 nests per tree, which compared favourably with four nests per tree found in 2016. Eight trees had more than 10 nests and four trees had more than 20. The highest number of nests in one tree was 34 compared with 53 last year. Part of the control programme involves limited spraying of carefully-targeted areas of oak trees with a specific insecticide approved by Natural England, the national body that licenses all work within Sites of Special Scientific Interest. This year, to reduce the risk to visitors and staff, 600 trees were sprayed in the busiest areas of the park and areas that had been heavily infested. This included the Waterhouse and Pheasantry Woodland Gardens and the area around Heron Pond. Results from previous applications have shown that spraying reduces nest numbers by 90%. The comprehensive nest removal programme took place in all other areas of the park.

Gillian said, "The Royal Parks are again very grateful for the continued support and very hard work of the OPM volunteer surveyors, who play a vital role in the successful implementation of our management strategy for this challenging pest". Future operations will continue with the process of limited spraying, surveying risk zones and carrying out manual removal of caterpillar nests.

## Defibrillator for Bushy Park

A defibrillator has been installed near the entrance to the Pheasantry Café. This is a device that gives a high energy electric shock to the heart through the chest wall to someone who is in cardiac arrest. It forms part of a scheme known as public access defibrillators (PAD) as anyone can use them in an emergency. For more information go to

<https://www.bhf.org.uk/heart-health/how-to-save-a-life/defibrillators>



## Support for the Parks

We were pleased recently to support Home Park with the purchase of a Bushnell trail camera and associated equipment that will be used to monitor wildlife in the park. It is not a webcam but the saved images can also be downloaded for talks and displays.

In Bushy Park we happily agreed to pay for new azaleas and some rhododendrons to be planted on Triss's Island in the Pheasantry Woodland Gardens. This followed clearance of many *Rhododendron Ponticum* in line with The Royal Parks policy to pre-empt the arrival of sudden oak death disease that these plants can carry and which would be very detrimental to the many oaks in the park. The 85 plants purchased include 17 different varieties in a range of colours that will enhance the aspect from the footpath on the nearside of the lake.

**Barry Purdon**

## Bushy Park in World War II

Bushy Park was also the scene of important events during World War II, some of which are marked by memorials. As 2019 will be the 75th anniversary of the D-Day Landings in Normandy, planned in the park, the Friends would like to mark the date. If you have any memories or photographs of Bushy Park at that time which you would like to share, please contact [newsletter@fbhp.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@fbhp.org.uk)

## From the Membership Secretary

Happy New Year to all our members. We hope you have all had a lovely Christmas, and are now looking forward to the events that 2018 will bring. Thank you very much for supporting FBHP throughout 2017. With subscriptions remaining the same over the years, we are heartened to see the generosity that many of you have shown by making an additional donation to your subscription.

Those of you who pay their subscription by standing order should have already received a membership card for 2018. I have also sent cards to those who have already renewed by cheque or cash subscription payment. Please let me know if your card has not arrived.

Those who are yet to renew, we hope you will wish to continue your membership. Please may I remind you that subscriptions are due on 3 January. It is so easy to forget; so I hope you will renew before I jog your memory by sending reminder letters with the April Newsletter! To save costs, or if you have mislaid your renewal invitation, you are very welcome to renew at any of the talks or events or at the Information Point. But if, for whatever reason, you will not be renewing your membership, a quick email will avoid the need to send that reminder.

We look forward to your continued support in 2018. Please get in touch, preferably by email (see adjacent panel), if you wish to change or check your membership details. Another thing that is so easy to forget is whether you have previously signed a Gift Aid Declaration. It is so beneficial to us if we can make a claim; so just email me to check or request a form.

With good wishes to all for 2018,

**Pat Dickinson**

## 2017 - 2018 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](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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