

Bushy Park Diary – August 2022

Deer

Now that the antlers are fully grown, the 'velvet' covering becomes redundant. It dies and shreds and the deer thrash their antlers against vegetation to rub it off. At this time, they may be seen briefly with blood-stained tatters of skin dangling across their faces. This is especially so with the fallow bucks.

Grey Squirrels

The grey squirrel is an introduced species and although it does not have natural predators, it is good at defending itself and scurrying out of harm's way into the tree canopy.

In mid-late summer, the grey squirrel has the destructive habit of stripping bark off trees, causing young trees to die and older trees to lose branches.

Algae

This naturally occurring algae reaches its peak 'bloom' during August in the Diana fountain and the Park's ponds. Its long filaments are floating in the water and can create a scum of algae blown by the wind to collect along one bank.

Woodland Gardens

The Woodland Gardens have been quite dry over the past month or so and we are trying to keep the plants going through these dry periods in any way we can. We have been watering regularly from the Longford River to ensure the gardens are still healthy and thriving so that we can all enjoy them as much as possible. We have made a lot of progress within the gardens, clearing Rhododendron Ponticum, fixing waterfalls and taking down roped off areas so that the public can explore these new open spaces this summer safely. Keep an eye open for our magnificent Magnolia grandiflora dotted through the gardens as the flowers are looking fantastic and smell amazing.

Further information can be found on The Royal Parks web site or via email bushy@royalparks.org.uk