

## **Bushy Park – June 2023 Diary**

### **Baby Deer**

It is usual for the Park's deer to give birth in May, June, and July. The young are not ready to follow their mothers for one or two weeks and hide in dense bracken, with their mothers grazing in the vicinity.

Bracken is therefore important to deer to hide their young. However, if you find a young deer on its own outside of bracken, please leave it as its mother will know where it is and return to feed it later.

It is not advisable to walk your dog in the park during this time. If you choose to, at your own risk, please keep your dog on a lead and consider an alternative route close to exit gates.

If pursued by a deer, let go of the lead. The deer are less likely to charge if the dog runs away from them. If a Red or Fallow Deer approaches you it is probably because she has a calf somewhere nearby. Walking away from her may inadvertently mean that you are walking towards the calf causing her to be more defensive. The preferred course of action would be to retrace your footsteps, back the way you take a wide berth on a different track.

### **Ticks and Lyme Disease**

Ticks are small creatures related to spiders and mites and feed on the blood of humans, dogs, and other animals. They cannot jump or fly, so they cling onto vegetation and wait until host brushes past to attach to their skin. Whilst the risk is very low, they may transmit Lyme's disease.

During spring, summer and autumn, ticks are more numerous and more active. Park visitors are advised to guard against tick bites by avoiding tall vegetation (especially if you are wearing shorts) and by staying on well worn paths. Insect repellent can also be used. Check yourself after walking in the park and remove ticks immediately. If concerned, you feel unwell, or a rash appears; consult your GP immediately. For more information, please see The Royal Parks website, notice boards within the park.

### **Bird News – Important information**

Bushy Park has two small colonies of Skylark, the colony in the south-east corner of the park have been gradually squeezed into a smaller and smaller area by the spread of the Bracken. In the last couple of years, we have taken measures to control it, this has worked well and now the birds had began reclaiming old nesting sites. We are doing this because this species is in decline nationally and within the park, so needs your help. These measures were working, with numbers increasing by 3 or 4 pairs. If you are in control of a dog, please follow the instruction on the signs and put your dog on a lead. The other Skylark area is to the south of Upper Lodge Road, here the grassland is much healthier and is what the birds require.

### **Please adhere to our signs in the park.**

Further information can be found on The Royal Parks web site.