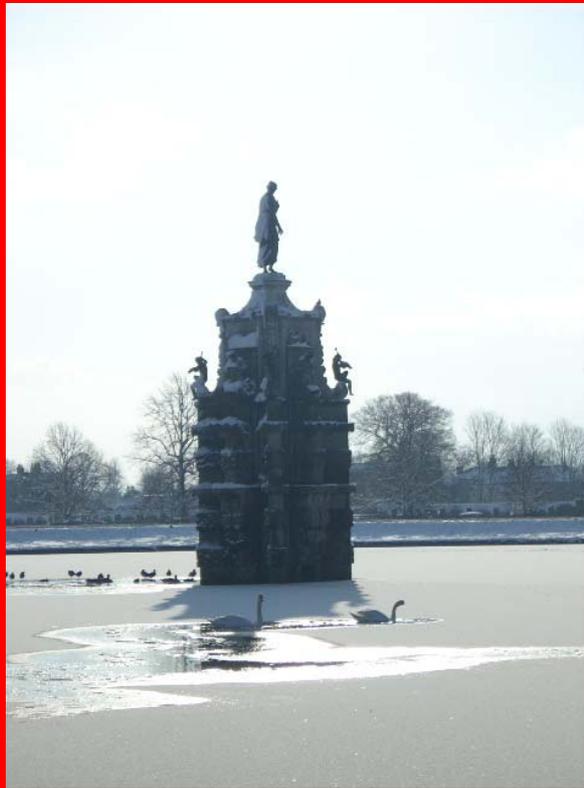


The Newsletter for ALL users of Bushy Park

# BUSHY PARK DOGWATCH

Issue Number TEN December 2010 an occasional publication

## Seasons Greetings



*Diana Fountain in the snow*

To contact the Safer Parks Team please Email

**[SPTBushy@met.police.uk](mailto:SPTBushy@met.police.uk)**

Or if you do not have email call 0300 123 1212 and  
a message can be sent for you

# DOGS OFF LEADS AROUND LEG-OF- MUTTON AND HERON LAKES

## Two Tragic Tales

On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 at about 1130a.m. a member of the public witnessed a Staffordshire bull terrier type dog attack a Swan in Bushy Park on the Heron Lake. It was reported that the Dog had been let off of the lead near the Lakes in contravention of the signs and had become very excited by the snowy weather.

The dog was seen to run onto the ice on the lake where it charged at the swan grabbing it by the neck and shaking it. The result of this attack was, that despite the best efforts of the Swan Sanctuary at Shepperton the bird died from head and neck injuries about two hours later.

## What you should be aware of...

### The Royal Parks and Open Spaces Act 1997

#### Acts Prohibited in the Park.

Section (3) Subject to the provisions of regulation 6, no person using a park shall —

Sub-section (5) fail to keep any animal of which he is in charge under control or on a lead.

## - IT IS AN OFFENCE , FOR WHICH YOU MAY BE PROSECUTED -

You will no doubt have noticed that the police have been requiring dog walkers to keep their charges on a lead in the area around the lakes, specifically to protect the wildlife. This has been going on for some time now, and in the light of this latest event we will be stepping up patrols around the lakes to ensure dog walkers comply with this regulation.

*Whilst on the subject of the lakes and in a similar vein last week on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2010 another dog off lead, in the vicinity of the lakes, ran onto the ice and went through it. The worried owners, an elderly couple, went after their dog and also went through the ice into the lake, which ended in them needing to be taken to hospital where they were treated for hypothermia.*

*What many people do not understand with regards to the lakes in the park,, is that they form part off the Longford River which flows through them. This creates a situation where the thickness of the ice can vary from a number of centimetres to less than a couple of millimetres and there is no way of telling where it is thick or thin making it extremely dangerous to walk on.*

**We urge all to stay off of the ice and ask again, please keep your dog on a lead in these areas, as required by the Secretary of State**

# Injured Wildlife within Bushy Park

**Many wild animals live in Bushy Park**  
and our wildlife team look after many of them especially the Deer

**However if you are unable to contact the Royal Parks Agency Wildlife officer**

**tel. 020 8979 1586**

**you might like to try ;**

**Injured Swans and waterfowl**  
Please feel free to contact the Swan Sanctuary

**tel. 019 3224 0790**

Please make sure you have the exact location of  
the sick or injured swan to hand for us to pass on to our rescuers

**Or**

**Injured Foxes, Hedgehogs etc,**  
Please contact Wildlife Aid

**tel. 090 6180 0123**

(calls charged at 50p per min to help with funding)

**Randalls Farmhouse, Randalls Road, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 0AL**



**WELCOME TO OUR NEW SERGEANT**

*It is with great pleasure that we welcome*

*The new leader of our team*

**Sergeant Bernadette TURNER PS5RO**

*We wish her every success*

*in her new post*

Email ; **SPTBushy@met.police.uk**

Bushy Park Safer Parks Team  
is very happy to report  
that we have reached  
266 members in  
The Dogwatch Scheme

**Useful TELEPHONE Numbers**

Non emergency Police **0300 123 1212**

The Stockyard Royal Parks Agency  
**020 8979 1586**

**In an emergency always ring 999**

State that you are in Bushy Park,  
*without an 'E', near Hampton Court*  
Post code **KT8 9BZ**

## Dog Fouling, an explanation

A number of people both Dogwatch members and non-members, have asked us what is the policy on dog faeces within Bushy Park.

So we thought we would take this opportunity to explain the rules and why these rules exist.

The Royal Parks Agency requires all dog walkers to pick up their dogs' mess from all paths. Failure to do so is an offence which can lead to a substantial fine. However the RPA also require you to pick up from the Acid Grassland (which basically means everywhere else)

What many people do not realise is that the Acid Grassland is a protected habitat which is created over many years of grazing by the deer herd. The dung that is produced by the deer has little in the way of nutrients and makes the soil impoverished, (it does not carry the same level of disease as dog mess) this in turn creates the correct environment for the Yellow Field Ants which, in turn create the very distinctive mounds which can be seen throughout the park. These mounds are the habitat for many other invertebrates

It is worth pointing out that the Acid Grassland within BUSHY and RICHMOND parks along with that in \*WIMBLEDON COMMON and \*EPPING FOREST are almost the only grassland of this kind in Greater London and together represent around 4% of all this type of habitat in the country

For this reason you are urged to help us protect this rare and precious resource.

***“please pick up your dogs’ mess every time  
Thank you.”***

There are a number of information leaflets available on Dogs, Deer, Birds, Cycling and History of the Park. These can be obtained from the information point at the Pheasantry Welcome Centre, which is next to the Café.

\*please note Epping Forest is maintained by the City of London Corporation and Wimbledon common by The Conservators and both are unconnected to the Royal Parks



**METROPOLITAN  
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

# **Bushy Park Police**

## **SAFER PARKS TEAM**

### **Future Surgery Dates**

**All Surgeries run 1400—1600 hours**

**Friday 24th December 2010**

**Friday 28th January 2011**

**Friday 25th February 2011**

**Thursday 31st March 2011**

These Surgeries will all take place at the

**Welcome Centre**

which is situated in the

Pheasantry Woodland Gardens

in the entrance to the Café

No appointment is necessary

Confidential room available

# Ticks

Ticks are small creatures related to spiders which feed on animal blood. They can survive in bracken, bushes, grass, etc., and can attach themselves to animals (or human) skin if brushed past. They are common on deer, other small mammals and even birds found in the parks.

If bitten remove the tick as soon as possible using tweezers or a tick-removal tool by grasping it as close to the skin as possible and avoiding squeezing the tick's body. Apply an antiseptic to the bite site. Check the bite site over the next month and if a rash develops or you experience flu-like symptoms consult your doctor as this may be indicative of Lyme disease, a bacterial infection spread by infected ticks although it must be stressed that human infection is rare. Symptoms resolve quickly with antibiotic treatment.

Remember to check your dogs frequently too.

For more information visit the [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk) or [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) websites. The Royal Parks Agency also produces a leaflet entitled "Tick Bites and Lyme Disease".

# Weil's Disease

Weil's disease (Leptospirosis) is commonly found in slow moving, stagnant water, and ponds.

The infection is commonly transmitted to humans by allowing water that has been contaminated by animal urine to come in contact with unhealed breaks in the skin, eyes or with the mucous membranes. It is rare in the UK. Symptoms are similar to those of influenza (flu) and can be treated by anti-biotics

*For further information visit the [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) website*

# Heron and Leg of Mutton Lakes

You will have seen a number of signs which have been placed around certain areas of water with regard to keeping your dog on a lead.

Please comply with these signs.

# The Water Gardens and the Brew House

Please note that visitors are required to keep their dogs on a lead when inside the Water Gardens. Please keep off the grass and do not allow your dog to enter the water.

# LOST AND STRAY DOGS

## In Bushy Park

You might, or you might not be aware, that the Metropolitan Police no longer take responsibility for STRAY dogs. This task is now officially undertaken by the relevant local authority. In our case **Richmond upon Thames Council**.

Richmond Council keep a register of found and missing dogs in the Borough  
In addition they will arrange for any stray dogs that are tethered to be collected and taken to Battersea Cats and Dogs Home

### To arrange for a stray dog to be collected

#### *During office hours*

During office hours (Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5.15pm, Friday 9am to 5pm) please telephone the Residential Team on **020 8891 7800** or email [residentialeh@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:residentialeh@richmond.gov.uk)

#### *Out of office hours*

Out of office hours please telephone the **Council's contractor** on **084 4482 8337**  
[http://www.richmond.gov.uk/stray\\_dogs](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/stray_dogs)

### If you have lost a dog

If you have lost a dog you can telephone **Battersea Dogs & Cats Home** on **020 7622 3626** or go to [www.dogshome.org](http://www.dogshome.org).

However, whilst the Safer Parks Team is still interested in Lost and Stray dogs, we no longer have responsibility for their removal.

**We are still *very* interested in any dog loose inside the Park.**

We strongly recommend that you contact us with any information regarding strays that are loose in the Park as they represent a very real danger to the deer and to themselves.

We have recently assisted in reuniting a lost dog with its owner, so it is always worth checking with us in the first instance on **020 7161 9733** or  
**by email [SPTBushy@met.police.uk](mailto:SPTBushy@met.police.uk)**

# The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks

The Friends of Bushy and Home Parks value the rural nature of these two neighbouring parks and believe that their landscapes should be protected so that future generations can enjoy their beauty and tranquillity.

The Friends watch over the parks and their wildlife, reporting problems and encouraging improvements. We liaise with Park managers and Police. The committee considers proposals for development in and around the parks, opposing planning applications for structures that would spoil the views from the parks or their rural character. We also have an active social calendar.

NEW MEMBERS ARE MOST WELCOME. Do join us whether you wish to attend meetings and social gatherings or to give active help with the running of the organisation, or simply to stay in touch with what is happening in the parks. We value your support.

Find out more at

**[fbhp.org.uk](http://fbhp.org.uk)**

Registered charity No: 1137203

## *Contact details for Safer Neighbourhood Teams around Bushy Park*

### **Fulwell and Hampton Hill SNT**

Tel 020 8247 5815 email [Fulwell.HamptonHill.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Fulwell.HamptonHill.SNT@met.police.uk)

### **Hampton SNT**

Tel 020 8721 2909 email [Hampton.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Hampton.SNT@met.police.uk)

### **Hampton North SNT**

Tel 020 8721 2745 email [HamptonNorth.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:HamptonNorth.SNT@met.police.uk)

### **Hampton Wick SNT**

Tel 020 8721 2908 email [HamptonWick.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:HamptonWick.SNT@met.police.uk)

### **Teddington SNT**

Tel 020 8721 2748 email [Teddington.SNT@met.police.uk](mailto:Teddington.SNT@met.police.uk)