

PRESS RELEASE

**THE COMPLETE HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF
THE ROYAL PARKS IN A FASCINATING NEW
BOOK**



**London's Royal Parks
with The Royal Parks Foundation
Photography by Edward Parker**

Publication 19 May 2006

Price £20.00 ISBN: 1845250141

'Know your Royal Parks? Try our quiz.'

1. *Which Royal Park do Prime Ministers and politicians traditionally favour for a stroll when they want to forget their worries?*
2. *Which Park contains more ancient oaks than France and Germany combined?*
3. *Why do punk rockers make a pilgrimage to a solar-powered musical bench in Richmond Park?*
4. *Which King of England is to blame for the lack of flowerbeds in Green Park?*
5. *How many souls swung together on Hyde Park's Tyburn Tree?*
6. *Why do pelicans swim on the lake in St James's Park?*
7. *Where did Sir Walter Raleigh lay down his cloak for his monarch to avoid the mud?*
(Check your answers at the bottom of this press release, overleaf)

The answers to these, and hundreds of other historical conundrums are contained in a new book to be published on 19 May to celebrate the third birthday of The Royal Parks Foundation, the charity launched to help support London's eight Royal Parks.

The book is an illustrated journey through centuries of Royal Parks' history, chronicling events in the Parks that have shaped the nation. A royalty from each book sale will benefit The Royal Parks through the Royal Parks Foundation.

With more than 200 stunning original photographs illustrating the individual character of each Park, the book is crammed with historical anecdotes, plus stories revealing the Parks' rich literary heritage. It highlights how London's favourite green spaces have been witness to centuries of historical and social change. From the royal palaces at the foot of The Green Park and St James's Park to the cradle of free speech, Speakers' Corner in Hyde Park, they have always been a reflection of what is happening in society and the wider world. They are also places of refuge and repose for kings and commoners alike.

About the photographer

Edward Parker has been a freelance photojournalist specialising in environmental issues since 1984. He has photographed in more than 20 countries, including Brazil and Cameroon. Photographs from his collection have appeared in books and magazines around the world and he regularly works for WWF. He is also author of several educational books and has co-written and photographed *Ancient Trees: Trees that Live for a Thousand Years*.

About the author

Malcolm Tait is a naturalist and Editor of Butterfly magazine, Super Kids and Wildlife Gardening for Everyone. He also writes a monthly column on wildlife for The Ecologist, of which he was formerly Managing Editor. He now lives in Berkshire but, during his time in London, he lived next door to Regent's Park, then moved down the road to live next door to Hyde Park.

For an interview with Sara Lom, Director of the Foundation, and for more information about The Royal Parks and The Foundation, please contact Clare Bowen on:

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For more information about the book or to discuss extracts please contact Think Publishing on: Tel: 020 8962 3020

QUIZ ANSWERS

Q1: St James's Q2: Richmond Park Q3: To celebrate the life of Ian Dury

Q4: Charles II Q5: 24 Q6: They are a traditional gift of the Russian Ambassador

Q7: Greenwich Park

Notes to the Editor:

The Royal Parks Foundation, Patron HRH The Prince of Wales, was established in May 2003 to help protect, conserve and enhance London's eight Royal Parks. It is a registered charity, number 1097545.

The Royal Parks, covering 5,000 acres of London, are amongst the capital's greatest attractions. Visited by 30 million people every year they include Bushy Park, The Green Park, Greenwich Park, Hyde Park, Kensington Gardens, Regent's Park (with Primrose Hill), Richmond Park and St James's Park.

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