

Steer clear as deer nurse new arrivals

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Dog walkers are urged to walk their pets outside the Royal Parks for deer birthing season in the coming months.

More than 200 deer are born in Bushy Park and Richmond Park between May and July each year and people with dogs are advised to walk outside the park during this period to avoid accidents and causing distress to the animals.

Female deer protect their young by hiding them in bracken and long grass for a few weeks after birth and the mother will often stand nearby and act defensively if a dog or human gets too close.

Newborn fawns and calves are scentless and immobile and hiding them for the first few weeks



Keep clear: Walkers are being asked to keep dogs away from the deer nursery areas

of their life is how they are protected from danger.

Walkers who visit the park with their pets are urged to keep them on leads at all times and stay clear of the areas of the park marked with nursery signs.

Adam Curtis, assistant park manager for Richmond Park, said: "It is important that we

keep in mind that deer are wild, strong animals that can behave unpredictably.

"Deer can feel threatened by dogs even over long distances and when the dog is not behaving in a provocative manner.

"Therefore we ask that you do not walk your dogs in Richmond and Bushy Park during May to July, and if you absolutely must, then ensure they are on leads."

If a deer approaches a dog, owners are advised to let go of the lead because deer are less likely to charge if a dog runs away from them.

Richmond Park is home to more than 600 deer and an additional 300 live in Bushy Park.

Park users are advised to keep at least 50m from deer, never touch or feed them, never get in between two deer and not to photograph the animals at close range.

Roads clear in time for lunch in the sun

Twickenham businesses celebrated the end of four months of Church Street roadworks last week, in time for the start of alfresco dining season.

The Church Street Association held a special reception for the Conway workers who carried out the road and pavement improvements.

Richmond Council leader Lord True said: "Improving Twickenham is one of my key priorities and I would like to thank the Church Street businesses for their patience and support in the past four months.

"I think that the improvements were well worth the wait and I am sure that we will attract more customers and new business as a result."

Bruce Lyons, chairman of the Church Street Association, added: "A long journey – four



Journey's end: Lord True and Bruce Lyons with contractors

months of road closure, but now Twickenham has its first piazza creating a real welcome for the community and visitors alike and I am sure the traders of

Church Street will work hard to enhance the ambience that already exists in our street."

Alfresco dining in Twickenham continues until August.

Proud pupils

A free school in Mortlake celebrated the official opening of its permanent site with a day of activities.

The two-form entry school had previously operated out of a converted church in Vernon Road, but has now moved to a new site in Sheen Lane where the year 3 classrooms and library will be located.

The school held an official opening event on Friday, May 22, with deputy mayor of Richmond Councillor Jean Loveland cutting the ribbon as pupils sang a song they composed especially for the occasion.

Tea, cakes and ice creams also formed part of the order of the



Celebration: Visitors watched a maypole dance

day alongside maypole dancing and an impassioned speech from founder of the school Matteo Rossetti.

Headteacher Amanda Letch said: "Thomson House School has arrived – a school built by the community for the community, of which we are extremely proud."

Peak effort

A father and daughter team from Twickenham have completed the gruelling Three Peaks Challenge for the charity British Skin Foundation.

Colin Taylor, 50, and his 25-year-old daughter Hayley Taylor managed to climb Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon in 24 hours, raising £2,063.

Despite numerous setbacks, including Hayley's severe whiplash from a car accident and back problems for Colin, the two completed the challenge.

Colin said: "It was much harder than I had imagined but I kept in mind all those suffering with skin cancer and that spurred me on to complete the challenge."

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