**Richmond Circular, Wednesday 19th May 2021**

6 walkers, 7 miles – leader Rod Smith

6 of us set off from Richmond Station at 18:15 to cross The Green and pass through the site of the Royal Palace to the river where high tide was 20:30. Across the meadows to Vancouver’s tomb, and into Richmond Park encountering a herd of red deer on our way to Ham Gate road and up to the Isabella Plantation. The Azalea colours were splendid, and the area was very tranquil with no wind and no crowds.

We returned via Pembroke Lodge with a very clear view to St Paul’s Cathedral, and exceptionally clear to the ‘Mole Gap’. Briefly past ‘Ian Dury’s bench’, and on to Richmond Terrace for the very fine view of the Thames below. Then back to The Green and on to the Station in time for the 20:45 train to Waterloo.

The fourth time I have led a walk for the Group in May to the Isabella Plantation, and the colours have always been magnificent.

Photographs by Rod Smith and Charlotte Minchell; more by Rod and Charlotte on the Group Facebook page