n 1751, the rangership was granted to King George's youngest daughter Princess Amelia. She immediately began to tighten the L restrictions on entry. Within 6 weeks of her taking up the post there was an incident.

The annual beating of the bounds of Richmond parish had always required entry into the Park. But the bound-beating party of 1751 found the usual ladder-stile removed. They entered by a breach in the



The bound-beating party entering the Park through a breach in the wall. Frontispiece to Two Historical Accounts...of New Forest and Richmond New Park, an anonymous booklet complaining about the restrictions.

However, from then on Princess Amelia forbade all entry to pedestrians and granted tickets for carriages only to her personal friends and guests, even denying entry to the Lord Chancellor. After several petitions were rejected, the matter was tried in the courts. John Lewis, a local brewer, succeeded in securing the right of pedestrian entry into the Park in 1758. A disgruntled and unpopular Princess Amelia surrendered the rangership to her nephew, the new King George III, in 1761. She did however leave a lasting memorial; soon after taking up the rangership she had had two wing pavilions added to White Lodge, connected to the house by long, curving, sunken corridors.

King George III considered himself the friendly "squire" of the people of Richmond. He and his Prime Minister, Lord Bute, whom he made Ranger, relaxed the entry restrictions and decreed an end to both deer hunting and turkey shooting in the Park. On Bute's death in 1792 the King took over the rangership himself, and introduced various



Engraving of John Eyre's plan of Richmond Park, 1754, showing the wing pavilions added to "New" (or White) Lodge.

agricultural improvements. When a new gate and gate lodge were required for the Richmond Gate, the plan by Sir John Soane (surviving in the Soane Museum in London) was submitted to the King in April 1795 and was then marked 'as approved by His Majesty". Sir John Soane was also instrumental in transforming the "mole catcher's cottage" into the spacious Pembroke Lodge for Elizabeth Countess of Pembroke, the lady who played a leading part in the King's fantasies during his first bout of madness (actually porphyria) at Kew in 1788. Half a century later Queen Victoria was to grant Pembroke Lodge to her Prime



King George III, Sir William Beechey National Portrait Gallery

The Preservation of Richmond Park

Minister Lord John Russell (later Earl Russell) in 1846.

In 1801 King George III decided that Henry Addington, his new Prime



Richmond Park Gate, engraved by Jonathan Brown in 1810

Minister, should have a suitable house near the capital, and gave him White Lodge. The King ordered extensive works of improvement to White Lodge, including the building up of the quadrant corridors. Addington remained in occupation after giving up the premiership (when he was created Viscount Sidmouth), and in 1813 he was appointed Deputy Ranger, a post which he held until his death in 1844. He carried out a major programme of new plantations, including one



Pembroke Lodge, The Suburban Residence of the Right Honourable Lord John Russell MP



Henry Addington, 1st Viscount Sidmouth, Sir William Beechey National Potrait Galler

which still bears his name. In 1835 when Petersham Lodge came on the market, the Office of Woods and Works purchased the estate, demolished the very decayed house, and restored the whole of "Petersham Park" to Richmond Park. A new terrace walk was made along the top of the hillside. Old Lodge had been demolished in 1839-41.

In 1851 responsibility for the upkeep of royal palaces and parks was allotted to the Office of Works, but the Rangers continued to play an importa

part in the administration of the Park for another half-century.

After 1857 Queen Victoria retained White Lodge in her own hands. In 1869 it was given to Princess Mary of Cambridge and her new husband, the Duke of Teck. They were the parents of "Princess May" – the later Queen Mary – and when the young Prince who would later become King Edward VIII was born there in 1894 Queen Victoria drove down to see her three-day-old great grandson – and came again for the christening three weeks later.

King Edward VII took the rangership back into his own hands in 1904, but made the Office of Works responsible for the general management



"The New Terrace in Richmond Park", made after Petersham Park was recovered in 1835. Engraving by Frederick Smith circa 1838

of the Park, nstructing that it should be made in all respects more accessible to ne public

Duchess of York (later King George VI and





Four generation of the Royal Family; Queen Victoria, the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII the Duke of York (later George V) and Prince Albert (later Edward VIII). Photograph by Chancellor 1899 (National Portrait Gallery)

Queen Elizabeth - the Queen Mother) were given White Lodge as their first home after their marriage in 1923. They found it too remote and rapidly gave it up to move into London!

By then the Park was just recovering from its disruption during World War I when large area had been ploughed for crops or turned into allotments; there was a large army camp in oehampton Paddocks a Royal Flying Corps depot by Beverly Brook and a South African

Military Hospital a little north of Richmond Gate. After the war the area where the army camp had been was made into a public golf course, opened by the Prince of Wales in June 1923.

The Second World War caused even more disruption. Pastures and



The Prince of Wales (later Edward VIII) drives off to open the new public golf course in Richmond Park, 9 June 1923.

playing fields were Pembroke Lodge was used as the neadquarte for the

army's famous "Phantom" reconnaissance squadron, and 50 acres in the south-west of the Park were used for a large huttee camp for th ATS – later used as the "Olympic Village" fo the London Olympic Games in 1948.



22nd May 1941 inspection by HRH Duke of Kent accompanied by David Niven and Colonel Hopkinson

We still have royalty living in the Park. Princess Alexandra of Kent and her husband, the Hon Angus Ogilvy, took over Thatched House Lodge after their wedding in 1963. He died in 2004, but Princess Alexandra



HRH Princess Alexandra with David Thomas, chairman of the Holly Lodge Centre which assists those with special needs in the Park

continues to live there – a charming and worthy of all those royal ancestors who created and hunted in Richmond's five parks, and who have preserved Richmond Park for today's inhabitants to enjoy – and to admire, rather than hunt the deer!