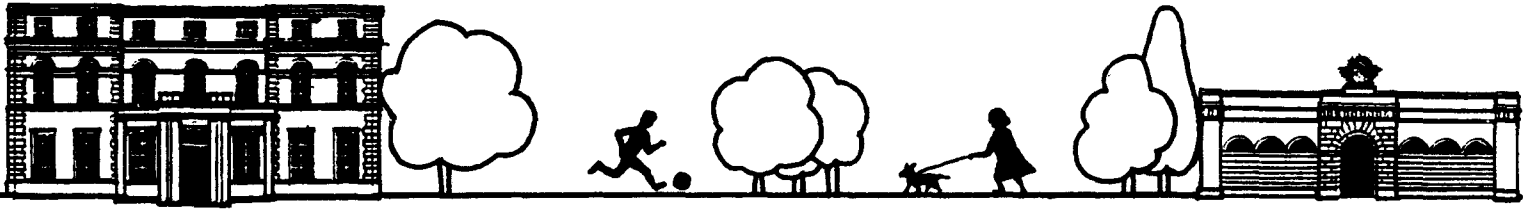


# FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

No. 14  
April 1985

# NEWSLETTER



## The Pavilion Café

We served our first customers on Good Friday! That short sentence conceals an enormous amount of work. The people who made all this happen are Jennifer Pates, our catering consultant, who has set up the whole operation while also running her own business, and Kate Knight, our manageress, who has had the courage (and I hope the foresight) to join us. The decorating was in the hands of a few loyal volunteers - Joan and John Catterall, Ann Stead, Ian Harmer, Stephen Mark and John Wilson - who devoted both weekends and evenings to the task. We were helped a great deal by the painting and decorating team from Acton NACRO, funded by the Manpower Services Commission and managed by Reg Smart - without them we would still be up ladders! Isabel Dozic and Anne Clements (2 students from the Interior Design School at Kingston Polytechnic), together with their Head of Department, Robert Lee, advised on the colour scheme and interior design. Come and have a look at the results - I'm sure you'll agree it's now very attractive.

We have started by setting up a quick service cafeteria selling ice cream, tea, coffee, fruit juices, hot chocolate, freshly-made sandwiches and rolls, cakes and sticky buns, confectionery and film. Our next step is to buy the equipment necessary for serving hot food. We will also need more cafe furniture, for inside and out, and eventually we intend to open half of the building as a tea shop with home made cakes. We also have to re-decorate and re-equip the Coronation Chalet before it is fit to use. All this requires money and we are renewing our appeal to you for financial support. We were delighted to receive several hundred pounds in donations after the last Newsletter but we still need more. This is a very worthwhile venture. We can ensure a good standard of catering and we will devote the proceeds to our main purpose of improving the Park and Museum. Please send donations to the Hon. Treasurer, Joyce Prince, 245 Popes Lane, W5.

## Annual General Meeting ~28th April

We are holding our Annual General Meeting in the Temple at 3.00pm on Sunday, 28th April. Please do try to come - there are some important matters to discuss. We should have news about the Riding School by then. As the Hon. Treasurer's Report shows the costs of administration are now no longer covered by the present subscription and the question of raising this will have to be on the agenda. Afterwards - tea in the Cafe?

## The Small Mansion

The Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee is offering to let part of the Ground Floor of the Small Mansion. Below we have extracted some of the important points from the four-page Offer, available from Clive Briggs, Borough Valuers Department, Civic Centre, Hounslow.

The accommodation is 4 rooms, store, kitchen and entrance lobby - 2,300 sq.ft. It is a Grade II listed building, built about 1810 and extended later. The GPJC is seeking a use which complements the recreational facilities and amenities of the Park. The following uses may meet these requirements: Museum, Art Gallery, Gymnasium, Clubrooms, Exhibition space, Conference/Banqueting facilities, Nursery/Playschool. The length of lease is negotiable, but a minimum of five years will be offered. Any use will be subject to formal planning consent. A covenant exists which restricts the use of the Small Mansion

for public purposes ancillary to the use of the Park as a public Park and Sports Ground. Offers should be submitted by the 10th of May.

If you know somebody who might be interested in this building, or if you have any ideas of your own, please let me know or write to Clive Briggs at the address above.

## Chairman's Report

Two steps forward and three back? At the end of last year the Museum had been offered a £30,000 grant, which was turned down by the GPJC! But at least the Museums and Galleries Commission kept the offer open, with plenty of time to sort out the details; the Riding School operators were favourable. By the Autumn it had fallen apart again and we were struggling to keep the principle of a Riding School. The whole experience was an ugly one. What has emerged from it? It is too soon to tell, but we still hope to see a Riding School + Museum Extension in the Stables in the next few years.

The Orangery is still a problem. We assembled a group of architects and engineers to survey its condition. Surprisingly it is structurally sound, though it needs treatment to its stonework, replacement of the guttering and consolidation of the floor. The most expensive individual item is a new set of timber window frames.

The Small Mansion has been partly empty for two years, and now the GPJC has invited suggestions for its use. If there is an income from this building it could be devoted to the repair of the Orangery. However, we must guard against the politicians who want to 'plunder' the funds - both last year and this year some of the Councillors from Ealing imposed unacceptable pressures on the Park's Budget.

Our activities for most of this year have been similar to the previous year. The Fund-Raising Sub-Committee took tables to the fairs and fetes in the area, organised Jumble Sales and Bazaars and of course the Annual Fete. After another Spring of restoration work we opened the Victorian Kitchens to the public and had 2,804 visitors in four weekends. We laid on a programme of social events - lectures in the Museum, a visit to the Nursery, a concert etc; I think we would all hope that the members would come to these in greater numbers, as they are not only interesting in their own right but they also give us the opportunity to meet and discuss the many things that concern us.

At last year's AGM we discussed the problem of vandalism, and Walkie/Talkies were suggested. The cost of 3 sets and a battery charger is over £1000, so we decided to hire some to test if the need was there, at a cost of £300. Undoubtedly it is, and we are now discussing with the GPJC which sets to buy for permanent use. Our offer of £400 to refurbish the Boardroom has not yet been taken up. We have also been asked to consider the problems of the area around the boating pond - on the hottest, busiest days there is clearly a need for railings of some sort.

This year we have expanded our 'Committee System' and added a Finance Sub-Committee to work with the Treasurer. We have also reorganised our book-keeping method to show more clearly the runnings costs of the Society as distinct from Fund-raising. It is clear from this that Fund-raising has paid for the Society's administration to too great an extent and we must consider raising the subscription. Most Friends of Museums have a subscription substantial enough to make Donations from this fund, and that is also something we should consider.

Finally the Cafe. To run this we have set up a limited company, Gunnersbury Enterprises Ltd, whose unpaid Directors are nominated by the Executive Committee of the Friends. The two issued shares are held in trust by the Chairman and Secretary of the Friends, and the company has covenanted its profits to the Friends. No liability will fall on the ordinary membership of the Friends, though 9 of the present Executive Committee have guaranteed the loan necessary to get the company in a position to trade. We must make this venture succeed, not only because the Park deserves a good catering service but also because it will give the Friends a financial base for their desire to improve the Park and Museum. I am very grateful to everyone who has worked so hard, particularly in the last few weeks, to set this up. Let us hope that this coming year, with a re-established Riding School, the Small Mansion put to good use and a thriving Cafe, will be a better year than the one just past.

James Wisdom, Chairman.

# Future Events

Very Important: The Tour of the Nurseries has been moved to Wednesday 22nd May at 6.30 outside the Nursery Gates. Please don't miss this - Mike Rowan is an excellent guide to this fascinating place. So excellent, in fact, that he has been appointed to the position of Superintendent of the Chiswick area, including responsibility for Chiswick House Grounds. He has made a great impact on Gunnersbury in a comparatively short time and both the Friends and the Park will miss him, but his promotion is well deserved.

Don't forget: The Victorian Kitchens will be open on the last weekends of June, July, August and September, and the FETE is on the 31st August.

## Minutes of AGM 1984

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF GUNNERBURY PARK AND MUSEUM, held in The Temple, Gunnersbury Park, 29th April 1984.

### Present:

James Wisdom (Chairman), Joan Catterall (Membership Secretary), Margaret Schofield-Palmer, Eva Swan, Stephen Mark, Anne Stead (Committee Members) and 29 members.

### Apologies for absence:

Ken Hawkes (Hon. Secretary), Doug Stone, John Catterall, Roger Nicholson (Committee Members); Mr. Rowe, Mrs. Wiggins, Mr and Mrs Hunter.

### Minute of AGM 1983:

Acceptance was proposed by Miss Udall, seconded by Joan Catterall, and carried.

### Matters arising:

The purchase of £1000 National Savings Deposit Bonds had been considered the best investment for FROG funds. Life Membership had been rejected by the Committee as it brought no long-term benefits with such a low membership fee.

### Chairman's Report:

Acceptance was proposed by Eva Swan, seconded by Ian Harmer, and carried.

### Treasurer's Report:

In the absence of the Treasurer the Report was read by the Chairman. The Committee was commended for the low outgoings for telephone and postal charges. Acceptance was proposed by Mrs D. McDowell, seconded by Miss Harris, and carried.

### Riding School, Small Mansion, Vandalism:

The Chairman outlined the reason behind the GPJC's rejection of £30,000 grant; a motion calling for the GPJC Chairman to resign was passed unanimously.

There followed a discussion on the Friend's attitude to the Small Mansion, and the view that it could be used to attract funds provided that use was related to Leisure and Recreation was confirmed.

There followed a discussion on the problems of Vandalism. We formed the view that there was a need for more Park Keepers, for more Park activities involving local children and local schools. It would be worth studying Parks with a low record of vandalism. Walkie-talkies for the Park staff were thought to be a constructive idea.

### Any Other Business:

A decision was reached not to charge admission for entry to the Kitchens.

Eva Swan appealed for helpers with publicity, stalls etc, and for goods for fund-raising stalls.

Margaret Scholfield-Palmer suggested a Patron be sought for FROG, possibly a member of the Rothschild family. It was proposed that the Committee prepare a brief paper on the advisability of a patron of FROG for the 1985 AGM.

It was suggested that Friends events be listed separately at the end of the Newsletter.

Continued over...

Election of the Executive Committee:

Following the resignation of Ray Gunston from the Executive Committee, Ian Harmer was proposed by Doug Stone, seconded by Eva Swan. No other names were nominated.

The 12-seat executive committee now consists of:

Joan Catterall, John Catterall, Ken Hawkes, Doug Stone, James Wisdom, Joyce Prince, Eva Swan, Roger Nicholson, Margaret Schofield-Palmer, Stephen Mark, Anne Stead and Ian Harmer.

## Treasurer's Report

FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM, TREASURER'S REPORT, APRIL 1984 - MARCH 1985.

| <u>RECEIPTS.</u>       |         | <u>PAYMENTS.</u>                |         |
|------------------------|---------|---------------------------------|---------|
| <u>OPENING BALANCE</u> |         |                                 |         |
| Current a/c            | 1257.36 |                                 |         |
| Deposit a/c            | 70.30   |                                 |         |
| Cash i/h               | 11.14   |                                 |         |
| National Savings       | 1000.00 |                                 |         |
|                        | 2338.80 |                                 |         |
| <hr/>                  |         | <hr/>                           |         |
| SUBSCRIPTIONS          | 320.50  | <u>ADMINISTRATION</u>           |         |
| DONATIONS              | 77.25   |                                 |         |
|                        | 397.75  | Newsletter                      | 220.98  |
| <u>FUND RAISING</u>    |         | Other Printing/Stationery       | 189.76  |
| Fete                   | 728.84  | Phone/Stamps                    | 197.79  |
| Jumble Sale/Bazaar     | 356.04  | Fees/Donations                  | 35.00   |
| Victorian Kitchens     | 150.69  |                                 | 643.53  |
| Stalls at other events | 575.51  | <u>FUNDRAISING EXPENSES</u>     |         |
|                        | 1811.08 | Fete                            | 476.33  |
| <u>MISCELLANEOUS</u>   |         | Jumble Sale/Bazaar              | 28.38   |
|                        | 105.03  | Victorian Kitchens              | 39.26   |
|                        | 12.93   | Other                           | 136.96  |
|                        | 117.96  |                                 | 680.93  |
| <u>OTHER</u>           |         | <u>OTHER EXPENSES</u>           |         |
|                        | 297.50  |                                 | 202.64  |
| <u>BANK INTEREST</u>   |         | <u>DONATIONS TO PARK/MUSEUM</u> |         |
|                        | 57.80   |                                 | 325.50  |
| <hr/>                  |         | <hr/>                           |         |
|                        |         | <u>BALANCE IN HAND</u>          |         |
|                        |         | Current a/c                     | 529.31  |
|                        |         | Deposit a/c                     | 828.10  |
|                        |         | Cash i/h                        | 10.88   |
|                        |         | National Savings                | 1800.00 |
|                        |         |                                 | 3168.29 |
|                        | <hr/>   |                                 | <hr/>   |
|                        | 5020.89 |                                 | 5020.89 |

Signed: Joyce Prince (Treasurer) 31.3.85

I have examined the books of THE FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM and supporting vouchers together with Bank Statements and to the best of my knowledge and belief this is a true statement of receipts and payments for the Year ended 31st March 1985.

Signed: H.G.Trace F.C.A. (Hon. Auditor) 31.3.85

# FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

Friday, 12th April.

25, Hartington Road, W.4.

Dear Friend,

Since this Newsletter went to the printers we have learnt of the proposal to hold a pop concert in the Park this Summer. The Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee met this evening and voted to continue discussions with the promoter, Ron Bartholemew, and hold another meeting in a few weeks to make a decision. They want to hear the public's views, and especially the views of The Friends. There has already been some disgracefully sensational press reporting from the Gazette group of newspapers, and so I am setting out the main details that we know so far.

- It would be a 6 hour event ending at 10.30 p.m.
- It would attract approximately 30,000 people and would give a rent to the GPJC of approximately £10,000, clear of expenses and after repairs and restitution.
- It would be sited towards the bottom end of the playing field, with the speakers facing towards the M4.
- It is assumed that most people would come by public transport (Acton Town) and a car parking area would be set aside near the Lionel Road gate.
- The promoter has had a great deal of experience and had clearly impressed the Council Officers who were reporting to the Committee tonight.
- The promoter has in the last few years staged this type of event in the Crystal Palace area (a similar residential area) to the satisfaction of local residents.
- In order to operate he has to apply to the GLC for a licence and the GLC then consults the public, police etc. This is in addition to the GPJC's public consultation now.
- The promoter claims to want to stage an 'upmarket' pop group (like Genesis or Phil Collins) and has promised no 'Heavy Metal' group will appear. (If you need a translation, ask a teenager!)

We have asked Ron Bartholemew to come to the AGM and answer our questions. If the numbers are too great we will move from the Temple to the Lecture Room of the Small Mansion.

James Wisdom (Chairman)

