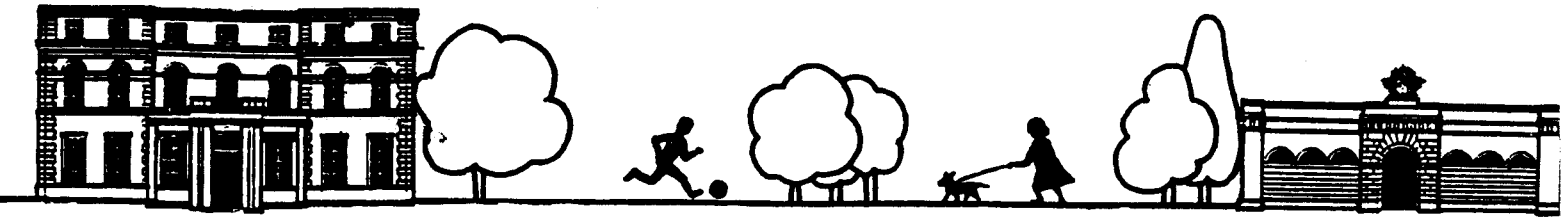


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

No. 35
June 1992

NEWSLETTER



FRIENDS' A.G.M: THE TEMPLE, JULY 3rd.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held in the Temple on the evening of Friday 3rd July. We will be offering a glass of wine from 7.15, starting the meeting itself at 7.45 and possibly finishing by 9.00. In most years we have held the AGM on a Sunday afternoon, so this is by way of an experiment. Let us hope it is pleasant evening to come and enjoy the Park and that many of our members will be able to meet and talk about progress in the Park and in the Museum.

We have vacancies on the Committee - perhaps you would consider putting yourself forward? Our Treasurer, Andrew Brown, has been posted to Brussels and so will be resigning; Pauline Tett has offered to fill this post. We must thank Andrew for many years of help and support on one of the more arduous tasks, and wish him well at the European Commission.

PLANS AND PROJECTS

Marianne Booth and Sarah Levitt write:

We are now in our second decade and hoping to our expand our activities. As a start the Friends and the Museum Staff together have planned a Programme of Events for the coming year to which you are cordially invited.

"Meet The Magpies". The Bristol Magpies are a lively Friends group for Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. They will be visiting Gunnersbury Park on Saturday 29th August and the Friends will be providing tea (3 - 5 in the Schools Room). Please come and welcome them and find out what another group gets up to!

"The Battle Of Brentford: Life in 1642". 1992 marks the 350th anniversary of the outbreak of the Civil War and this exhibition will be opened in the Long Gallery on Saturday September 26th (10 a.m. - 12 noon). A re-enactment of a Parliamentarian Camp will be held in Gunnersbury Park on September 26th and 27th and the Museum has arranged a series of public talks on the Civil War theme to be held over the winter.

A Visit to the new Costume Store. On Saturday November 14th the Museum Staff will be organising a "back-stage" visit to the new Costume Store. Some time ago we had a chance to explore behind the scenes in the Museum and those of you who took advantage of this will recall a most interesting evening. The new Costume Gallery, beautiful as it is, can only show a tiny part of the collection at any one time and the "Butler's Pantry" and the "Steward's Room" (two of the rooms in the Kitchen Wing recently transferred by the Gunnersbury Park Committee to the Museum) are now used as the store for this important collection.

There will be three visits (at 2.00, 3.00 and 4.00) with a maximum of 12 people per visit, so it will be necessary to book in advance from Marianne Booth or Joan Catterall (phone numbers below). Tea will be served in the Schools Room.

"A Chiswick Family, 1920 - 1955". This exhibition will be opening on Thursday December 3rd in the Costume Gallery. John and Joyce Hearn met at school and married in 1940. Photographs from the 1930s show their stylish taste in clothes and these are reflected in the costume display. John worked for 43 years as a driver for Brentford & Chiswick Council, whilst Joyce was employed in many shops on Chiswick High Road.

December will be a busy month. Friends' children will be able to come and make shadow puppets in the Museum. The restored Victorian Kitchens will be the setting for our Christmas treat, carols, a glass or two and a mince pie. Don't forget our usual annual events - the Summer Fete on Sunday September 6th and the Christmas Cracker in the Temple on December 6th.

More details to follow and much more for 1993!

WE NEED YOUR HELP

"The Victorian Child":

The great success of "The Victorian Child" means that many families visit, especially during school holidays. It has "hands-on" exhibits and dressing up clothes but the Museum Staff will need help to supervise the children and show them how to use the toys. We would very much like to hear from anyone able to help on weekday or weekend afternoons between July 23rd and September 3rd. Training will be given so that you can confidently answer questions.

"Guides for the Kitchens":

Some years ago the Friends' Restoration Project was the Victorian Kitchens and we acted as guides when the rooms were opened. Did you know that all primary schools "do the Victorians" as part of the National Curriculum? Many school groups would like to visit the Kitchens but the Museum's Interpretative Officer cannot meet the demand (remember, the Museum serves two London boroughs). Would you be willing to act as a guide for occasional school parties on weekdays? Training would be given (and the Kitchens now have central heating!)

"Scrubbing the Staircase":

For the more energetic helpers! It is planned to clean the marble steps of the Main Staircase in the Museum with special gentle cleansers. The steps are wonderful but very grubby - they were probably built in the 1830s when Sidney Smirke adapted the house for its new owners, the Rothschilds. Does anyone want to get into the real Victorian spirit and lend a hand? We are going to put together a working party one day in August, provide lunch and all the equipment, neutral detergents etc. Our previous work days have been fun so why not phone Marianne Booth and suggest a day when you would be willing to join in.

"Restoring The Conservatory":

For the future: the Conservatory (remember, this is the glazed extension to the main Museum building, not the Orangery building in the Park) is to be emptied of the large laundry equipment that has been in there for some years. It will then be restored as a Victorian Conservatory with appropriate plants and furnishings. The Museum has been awarded a grant to improve a room in the Kitchen Wing to store the washing machines.

The Conservatory was probably one of the alterations that Sidney Smirke built for Nathan Mayer Rothschild in the 1830s. We need to do the research first so

that the restoration and the contents (plants, display methods etc) will be historically accurate. When completed it will be an important feature in the Park as so many people walk past it (between the two Mansions) to get to the garden side. Is anyone interested in working on the research? It will be a fascinating project and we are looking for volunteers to get the project going.

Please contact Marianne Booth (081 992 9891) or Joan Catterall (081 560 4262) for further information on any of these ideas. Don't delay - phone today!

A DONATION TO THE PARK

It might not sound glamorous, but a new wash hand basin in the Ladies Toilet was desperately needed! The Friends were asked by Mike Rowan if we would help out, as part of a programme to upgrade these facilities. Over the years we have received many complaints about the state of the toilets in the Park and so we felt we had to make a contribution. This won't get reported in the local papers - it is the least exciting story for years - but we hope it is £252.04 well spent!

"TREES AND OTHER WILDLIFE"

Friends will remember in the last Newsletter a notice offering a Park Walk, led by Peter Edwards of the Ealing branch of the London Wildlife Trust, on Sunday 7th June starting at 2.30 from in front of the Museum. When we arrived to start the walk there were 50 people there! By wonderful and unplanned coincidence, the Countryside Rangers of the borough of Ealing had offered a Park Walk starting at the same time from the same place, led by Philip Bellman. So we joined forces and for the next two hours Philip and Peter led a fascinating walk, mixing identification, expertise, local knowledge, wit and humour all across the Park. Yew, catalpa, red oak, copper beech, silver birch, ginkgo, mulberry, sweet chestnut - they and many others got "the treatment", showing how and why each specimen is as it is, relating trees to their surroundings, showing how the management regime of the Park has produced one result over another, looking at how "dead" trees were regenerating, how light through the canopy was bringing forward saplings which otherwise would be dormant - in fact, all we missed were the labels supposedly placed high in the trees! A fascinating afternoon, which we fully intend to repeat for each season of the year. Watch out for the announcement of the date of the Autumn Park Walk.

THE SMALL MANSION ARTS CENTRE

News from the Small Mansion Arts Centre:

"Three Painters From Veneto":

The work of Ilvano Lunardelli, Diego Palasgo and Renato Zanette will be at the Small Mansion Arts Centre from Tuesday 16th June to Sunday 12th July (open daily except Mondays from 1 to 5 p.m.). This is the second of two "Eurofest" exhibitions, with French and Italian artists respectively, arranged by the Small Mansion Arts Centre to mark the forthcoming British Presidency of the European Economic Community.

"Life Drawing & Life Painting":

On selected days between 4th July and 10th September there will be classes and sessions of Life Drawing and Life Painting at the Centre.

For information about both of these items: 081 - 993 - 8312.

FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM

TREASURER'S REPORT : APRIL 1991 TO MARCH 1992

RECEIPTS

PAYMENTS

OPENING BALANCE

Current a/c	974.98
Charities Dep a/c	9212.00
Cash in hand	<u>15.42</u>
	= 10202.40

SUBSCRIPTIONS 333.00

DONATIONS 76.87
= 409.87

FUND RAISING

Fete	301.52
Jumble sales etc	576.23
Concerts	641.80
Stalls elsewhere	<u>163.06</u>
	= 1682.61

ADMINISTRATION

Newsletter	225.13
Other printing etc	139.15
Telephone/stamps	241.30
Fees/donations	<u>62.50</u>
	= 668.08

FUND RAISING EXPENSES

Fete	40.76
Jumble sales etc	92.72
Concerts	995.74
Other	100.00
Fund raiser	<u>167.50</u>
	= 1396.72

OTHER : miscellaneous 41.32

BANK CHARGES 66.29

INTEREST

Charities Dep a/c 960.17

DONATIONS:

Small Mansion	739.63
Anne Frank exhibition	<u>500.00</u>
	= 1239.63

BALANCING ITEM 19.99

BALANCE IN HAND

Current a/c	657.98
Charities Dep a/c	9172.17
Cash in hand	<u>32.85</u>
	= 9863.00

= 13275.04

= 13275.04

Signed: 

Andrew Brown (Hon. Treasurer)

12 June 1992