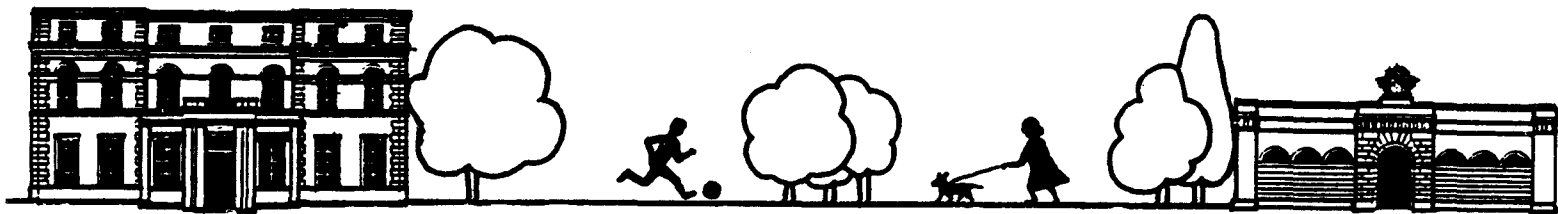


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

No. 37
DECEMBER 1992

NEWSLETTER



"THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER"

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held in The Temple, from 11.00 on Sunday 6th December. There will also be stalls from other local charities. Come along, buy your Christmas "things" and support us in our fundraising!

We will be resuming our monthly Bazaars in April (first Sunday in the month, as usual) and will run through until the Fete in September. This will give us time to collect items to sell as well as being able to take our stall to other local events.

THE CONSERVATORY - DONATION FROM POORES OF ACTON

Friends will remember from earlier Newsletters that the Curator, Sarah Levitt, is trying to improve the Conservatory, the glass-fronted ground-floor addition to the Large Mansion which has been the home, in recent years, of some of the larger exhibits - early washing machines and fire appliances, for example.

We are pleased to report that John Poore (of Poores of Acton) will be sponsoring some of this restoration work in the form of a donation of work by his staff on sandblasting the floor, painting and decorating, easing the windows and so on. This work will begin just after Christmas.

This is a very imaginative donation and we must record our thanks to the company for their offer - and to June Hoare, the Friends' Fundraiser, for negotiating it.

We will have further news about which plants will be needed and in what other ways we can make donations in the next Newsletter.

THE MUSEUM

We hope to start on the staircase in the New Year. Those of you who contacted Marianne Booth to volunteer will be phoned after Christmas to find out if your offer still stands. So please have your rubber gloves, kneeling pads, scrubbing brushes and soap ready - we will advise you of the dates and times!

Lynne Fox, the Deputy Curator, is looking for anyone who would be prepared to distribute some of the Museum's posters around the shops in the Chiswick and/or Acton area when there is a new exhibition. This would probably be about four or five times per year. Might you help? Lynne's number is 081 992 1612.

Don't forget the talks associated with the Civil War exhibition - Sarah Levitt's talk on 17th Century Costume is on Wednesday, January 13th at 7.30 - Free to friends!

SMALL MANSION ARTS CENTRE

Daily (except Mondays) from 1 to 5, until 20th December: **"CONTEMPORARY PRINTMAKING IN WALES"** - a personal survey of the work of ten artists, native and non-Welsh, living and working in the Principality and who employ printmaking as a means of expression. William Brown, a Canadian Scot and honorary Welshman, who has curated the exhibition, writes: *"I endeavoured to find contrasting characters as well as processes. The difficulty, it must be said, lay not in the finding of ten excellent and interesting printmakers, but in the limiting of their numbers to a mere ten. I hope the resulting exhibition illustrates the general well-being of the visual arts in Wales - robust, sensitive, diverse - as well as the Principality's welcome extended to this Canadian Scot. Note well that the exhibition includes the work of English, American and Dutch printmakers."* Further details: 081 993 8312.

A GUIDE TO THE PARK

LB Hounslow are just about to publish a new Guide to the Park. It is a good-looking object, to which the Friends have donated £400 in support. More details after publication day

CAR PARKING IN THE PARK

At the last meeting of the Park Committee (6 Councillors each from Ealing and Hounslow) this question came up. On busy weekends and in the school holidays there is a lot of unsightly and inappropriate parking along the drives and on the grass in front of the Mansions while often the main car park is full with footballers or cricketers. This limits access for emergency vehicles and people with disabilities.

Solutions? To restrict the use of the Small Mansion car park? To impose two levels of parking fee, designed to discourage the use of the Small Mansion car park? To lay out more space at the main car park (and lose pitches as a result)? A report is being prepared for the next meeting, but in the meantime if you have views, I would be happy to pass them on to Mike Rowan at Hounslow's Civic Centre.

VANDALISM IN THE PARK

The listed historic buildings are being rapidly destroyed. The battlements along the top of Princess Amelia's Bath-house have been pushed to the ground, the inside of the Potomac Tower is being vandalised and (we are told) a member of the Park staff backed his lorry into the facade of the East Lodge and pushed down most of what was standing (which was not much). So fencing is being put round these buildings, and the Tower is being bricked up. There is still no sign of either Councillors or Officers preparing any sort of plan to bring these buildings into public use.

THE RANGERS' LODGE

One of the best new features of the Park is the refurbished Rangers' HQ in the North Lodge by the Popes' Lane Gate. There is a small display about the Park in the first room, with offices, a kitchen and mess room behind. It is an intelligent use of the building - let us hope it soon gets known as the working base for the park.

This Newsletter was edited by James Wisdom - 081 994 4231 - who would welcome Friends' contributions to the next Newsletter. **Membership Subscriptions** (£3) are now due and should be sent to the Membership Secretary, Joan Catterall, 39 Lionel Road, Brentford (081 560 4262).