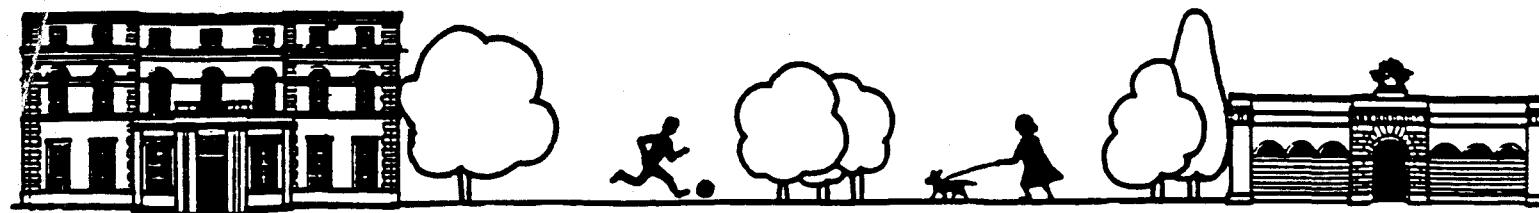


# FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

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# NEWSLETTER



## INFORMATION AND EVENTS FOR CHRISTMAS

### THE CHRISTMAS CRACKER

Our Annual Christmas Bazaar will be held in The Temple from 11 o'clock on Sunday December 5th.

We will be inviting a few other local charities to set out their best stalls so that - in one visit - you can buy all the bits and pieces you will need for Christmas. This is always an enjoyable and successful event - we look forward to seeing you there!

### THE ROTHSCHILD BOOK

In the last Newsletter we included an order form to purchase a copy of "Gunnersbury Park and the Rothschilds", the new book by Ann and James Collett White which tells the story of the family's involvement with the Park in the 19th and 20th centuries. It is beautifully produced and is full of illustrations - including some very rare colour photographs taken in 1912. The Friends have sponsored its publication (with £1,000) and so we have a number of copies which we are selling at the reduced price of £5 (it is normally £6) to celebrate its launch. We have sold 100 so far and, although we do not have any more order forms, you can obtain a copy by sending a cheque made out to The Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum to 25, Hartington Road, Chiswick, W4 3TL. Don't forget to include your name and address!!

### THE STABLES, THE BATH-HOUSE AND THE PARK

With the active involvement of English Heritage, things are developing in the Park. You will soon see scaffolding going up around the Stables and the Bath-House to construct a cocoon to prevent further deterioration. The next step will be the preparation of a full-scale plan for the future of the Park and its buildings - English Heritage will not provide further funding until they are sure that there is a coherent plan to get the Park out of its difficulties. There

will be a lot of public discussion about this Plan as it is being prepared and we hope to be able to publish information and hold meetings to keep the Friends informed and to ask for your views.

## TALKS AT THE MUSEUM

On Wednesday 5th January, Phil Philo (who used to be the Curator at Gunnersbury) will be coming down from Cleveland to talk on "*Bedfont Powder Mills*". There was an extensive arms industry in Hounslow and Bedfont in the 17th century, and while Phil was working in London he did research on the sites to discover what is still visible today.

On Wednesday 6th March, Jon Cotton (who is a Curator of Archaeology at the Museum of London and has been working closely with the West London Archaeological Field Group) will lecture on "*From handaxes to William Heath: The Archaeology of Hounslow*".

Both talks will start at 7.30 in the Museum. Entrance is £1, but Friends admission is free.

## THE VICTORIAN CONSERVATORY

Early this year Poores of Acton, whose help was negotiated through the Friends' Fund-raiser, June Hoare, redecorated the Conservatory. With such a splendid start and an initial donation of exotic plants from Kew Gardens, the project of restoring the Conservatory to something like its former glory had begun.

Since then, with money raised by the Friends and a very generous donation from a local resident, we have been able to purchase large pots and provide growing compost, plant food etc. Local people have donated more small pots and a number of interesting plants. We now have a large weeping fig, an avocado tree, hibiscus, arbutilons, rubber plants and many smaller plants. We have been offered - and have accepted - two monstera.

We have created the nucleus of a collection and we have been given some display stands and wrought-iron hanging baskets which we hope to use to great advantage next year. Members of The Friends water the plants regularly and check for pests and disease. This is an on-going project which we hope to develop further in the future with "open days" and a greater attention to historical accuracy than we have so far attempted. Our first aim was to provide an attractive feature in the Park, to interest local plant enthusiasts and to encourage more participation by both Friends and local people in the maintenance and enjoyment of our Park and Museum. The Curator and the Museum staff have been most helpful and supportive throughout.

## VICTORIAN EVENING

With this Newsletter will come an invitation to a Victorian Evening at the Museum on 17th December - we do look forward to meeting Friends on this evening.

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This Newsletter was edited by James Wisdom, 25 Hartington Road, W4 3TL (994 4231)