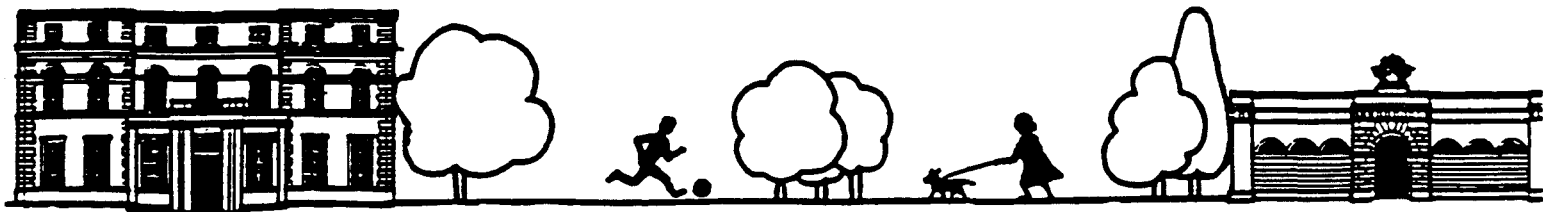


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 24 July 1994

The Friends' Annual General Meeting will take place in the teaching room near the kitchens (entrance via the museum) from 3 to 5pm on 24 July.

We will be discussing the **Development Plan** which is being prepared for the Park (see page 4) and you will have a chance to discuss the initial proposals as well as to contribute ideas for later stages. Nominations are now needed for candidates to fill vacancies on the committee. If you are interested, the current chairman, James Wisdom, will be happy to discuss this with you (phone him on 081-994 4231). The meetings take place monthly and all you need to contribute is ideas and, occasionally, help with specific projects.

GUNNERSBURY GALA, 17 July

Following the success of the first Gunnersbury Gala last summer there are plans for it to become an annual event. The 1994 Gala will take place on **Sunday 17 July** from 1pm to 6pm. While last year's theme was Victorian, this year it's the 1920s and '30s - and fancy dress is positively encouraged! Help is needed with stewarding for the event - potential volunteers should contact Nick Butcher, the park ranger, on 081-993 2055. The Friends are running the information point for the afternoon, providing an opportunity for volunteers to enjoy the Conservatory! Those who would be prepared to help with this specific part of the event should contact Marianne Booth on 081-992 9891.

Entertainments will include cricket, croquet, cookery demonstrations in the old kitchens, brass and ragtime bands, roundabouts, magic, craft stalls and refreshments. The Friends are sponsoring some of the Performers on the main stage: **The Rio Trio & Zoots and the Spangles** - jazz musicians and dancers. In the Orangery there will be a children's stage with music, clowns, Punch & Judy, escapology and magic! Many activities will be under cover so a little summer drizzle need not put you off. . .and it promises to be a great day out for all the family!

THE TEMPLE TRUST

A new charitable trust has been established to raise funds for the preservation of historic buildings, especially neo-classical and Palladian temples and villas in public parks. Since April the Temple Trust has occupied the Temple at Gunnersbury Park, providing a programme of small exhibitions. A photographic exhibition, *London Historic Park Buildings at Risk*, continues until 11 July, to be followed by *Hogarth* (satirical prints by Hogarth and his followers) from 25 July to 8 August, *Captured Moments* (photos by Frances Neale) from 11 to 29 August, *Botanical Prints* from 1 to 14 September and *The Grand Tour*, a collection of plaster casts of classical sculpture, from 19 September until January 1995. Volunteers are needed to help supervise these exhibitions during opening hours (open daily 11am to 4pm but closed Tuesday and Wednesday) - if you are interested in helping contact Suzannah Fleming on 081-940 2658. On the afternoon of the Gunnersbury Gala, the Temple Trust will be presenting madrigals by the Tabard Singers.

There will also be a lecture in the Temple on the evening of **Monday 11 July**, at 6.30pm by Chris Sumner of English Heritage entitled *London Historic Park Buildings at Risk*. Places are limited so phone 992 2248 to ask for seat to be reserved for you. To find out more about the Temple Trust contact at 8 Lichfield Road, Kew Gardens, Surrey TW9 3JR.

THE MUSEUM

Exhibitions

You can see **The Peopling of Southall**, part of a pattern of exhibitions all across London during 1993 and '94 inspired by the Museum of London's very successful "Peopling of London" exhibition. All these exhibitions followed the theme of London as a cosmopolitan place made up of immigrants from a wider world, from early prehistoric times to the present day. Southall has one of England's most famous multi-cultural communities which forms the basis for this exhibition. It looks at the historical development of the population of the town, where people came from and why they chose to come to Southall, often through the words of Southall people themselves. This exhibition continues into 1996.

For the Greater Glory of God runs until January 1995. This is a small exhibition of embroidery and needlework tools from the Anglican Society of All Saints Sisters of the Poor. This order was founded by the first Vicar of All Saints, Margaret Street in central London, a highly-decorated church which was very fashionable in Victorian society. In the 19th century the embroidery department was very strong, much of the work being done by novices - pieces on show testify to the fine quality of their embroidery. The number of sisters involved in such work declined in the 20th century until only one was left. When she died a treasure trove of embroidery was found. More recently the department has been revived and they produced the cope and mitre worn by Archbishop Runcie for the wedding of Charles and Diana in 1981 which is included in the exhibition too.

Another of the Museum's current exhibitions is **The Red Cross - Ideals that Endure**. A programme of events has accompanied the exhibition; the last one will be a talk on *The Red Cross in London Today*, at 7.30pm in the Museum on **13 July**. Admission is £1 payable at the door but for Friends admission is free.

Teatime treats

Two food historians have been running "teatime workshops" on food from the past in the servants' dining hall of Gunnersbury's kitchen wing. There is still a chance to join the last of these on **Sunday 10 July at 3pm**. The price is £10 and includes a Shrimp Tea. Billed as "a northern experience", it offers home-made bread and butter, fleur au Parmesan, stuffed quails' eggs, savoy cake, gelee a la francaise, white gingerbread, parkin and gooseberry trifle - and they say you'll need lots of time for this! To book a ticket contact Vibeke Fazakerley on 864 0309 or Liz Smith on 081 868 0891.

A Stitch in Time. . .

If you are a dab hand at soft furnishings, you may be just the person the Museum needs to help with making up curtains - they already have the material for curtains for the Chef's room in the kitchen wing and they are also hoping soon to have fine lawn curtains made to hide the metal grills at the kitchen windows. If you are interested contact the number below.

Promoting the Museum

The Museum appears in a new little guide to some of London's museums, entitled **London's Museums on the Catwalk**, promoting collections of clothing. The Court Dress collection at Kensington Palace, the Theatre Museum's costumes, tennis fashions at the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis

Museum, the Crafts Council and the Fan Museum are included. It is one of a regular series produced by the London Museum Service, the regional office of the South Eastern Museum Service which supports museums through advisory and information services and grants to raise standards in museums.

Following advice from a marketing consultant, the Museum is improving its publicity with regular brochures promoting forthcoming events and exhibitions. A new one is available from early July and there will also be a special leaflet sponsored by Vimto (enclosed with this Newsletter). The Curator has asked for help with their distribution. It would help enormously if you could take on either deliveries to one or two streets around your home address or homes around the park or help with distribution of leaflets to people in the park on a few summer weekends. Contact Sarah Levitt or Lyn Fox on 081-992 1612 if you think you could help with either of these.

FRIENDS' ACTIVITIES

Fund-raising

The Friends' fund-raisers continue to run **bric-a-brac** stalls on the first Sundays of the month from May to August. Good quality items which you no longer want are always welcome - contact Marianne Booth on 081-992 9891 if you have something to offer. On **Sunday 4 September**, from 12 noon to 4pm there is the Friends' **Annual Bazaar** in the Park, with fund-raising stalls from a variety of local charities, and refreshments. The **Christmas Cracker** is planned for the afternoon of 4 December.

The Conservatory

The Friends have continued to maintain the **Conservatory** at the eastern end of the museum building. We are trying to ensure that it has more historically accurate planting than when we started out - additional plants, especially flowering plants such as azaleas and hydrangeas, in keeping with the Rothschilds style of planting, are still needed. Contact Marianne Booth to obtain details of those plants which are required if you think you might be able to help.

Publications

The last newsletter came with a leaflet advertising the new publication on *The Rothschilds at Gunnersbury Park*. With the response from this publicity and from many cold Sunday mornings spent leafletting streets around the park, the Friends have sold over 120 copies of this booklet by a hand-delivered mail order system! Copies are still available and will be on sale at the AGM at £5.

THE PARK

Protecting the Stables

Travellers sitting in traffic jams on the east side of the Park on the North Circular Road will have noticed that the Stables are now surrounded by a scaffolding and tarpaulin cocoon to keep the weather out and prevent further deterioration of these dilapidated historic buildings. Similar protection has been provided for the Bathhouse following English Heritage's threat to serve a repairs notice on Hounslow for its failure to maintain these buildings. English Heritage also made clear that it would provide no grants for repairs even to the most significant buildings unless these repair proposals formed part of a development plan for the Park as a whole.

Planning the future of Gunnersbury

The Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee approved the establishment of a working party to oversee the preparation of a plan for the future management of the Park. This group includes officers of LB Hounslow and Ealing, English Heritage and the Friends (James Wisdom) and has been meeting

monthly. Various pieces of work have been set in train. This spring a tree survey has been carried out in the park and there are proposals for some archaeological work and a photographic survey to be undertaken. The "rose basket" beds between the museum building and the Orangery are an unusual feature and are to be restored; new "handles" along which roses will be trained have been manufactured and some beds will be re-shaped. Research into roses available in Victoria's reign but of appropriate height, colour and hardiness has been compiled. In addition, the process of selecting specialist consultants to examine the potential uses of the Stables and the adjoining area of the Park, including the Bath House is underway.

An important research project listing historical documents and illustrations for the history of the gardens at Gunnersbury has been completed, listing material in the such institutions as the British Library, the Greater London Record Office, the Courtauld Institute's libraries, the National Monuments Record, the Royal Horticultural Society's library and the Royal Institute of British Architects. Copies of major items have been deposited with the collection in Gunnersbury Park Museum, to add to the photocopied documents amassed by Ann and James Collett-White when they were writing their history of the Rothschilds at Gunnersbury.

Perhaps the most important new discovery has been material relating to Princess Amelia's estate after her death in Lord Pelham's papers at the British Library. Camilla Beresford, the consultant who carried out the work, has produced a master list of "Garden Archives" and, where possible, she has coded the entries in her list to show where they make reference to specific parts of the park. It is clear that more work needs to be done to make the material easy to use, but the basis for a detailed forward plan for the garden landscape is now easily identifiable and accessible.

This is a major opportunity to define the way the Park will be cared for over the next 5 to 10 years. It will link the treatment of the historic buildings to the treatment of the landscape around them. It will recognise the significance of different phases of the development of that landscape, whether designed by William Kent in the 18th century or by the Rothschilds during their ownership. It will consider the future provision for sport and recreation and practical matters such as coping with car parking. Above all, it will provide a clear basis for bids to be made for grant-aid and sponsorship to bring new money into the Park and Museum. **As the work progresses, it is clear that some consultation process will be necessary to obtain views from Park and Museum users and people with an interest or useful knowledge to impart. The first stage of this will be the AGM (see page 1) with an opportunity for Friends to hear details of work so far and to discuss the project.**

EVA SWANN

Some of you will remember Eva Swann, who was energetically involved in the early days of the Friends. She and her husband retired to the Canary Islands some years ago. Sadly, Eva became ill and we have heard recently that she returned to Nottingham where she died in hospital last autumn.

GUNNERSBURY PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

Following the elections in May committee members are now Cllrs Dunckley, Gallagher, Green, Johnson, Sumner and Woodroffe from Ealing and from Hounslow, Cllrs Collins, Dodkins, Hopkins, Hunt, Langton and Sharma. Meetings for the coming year will take place at the Park at 6.30pm on 23 September, 9 December 1994, 17 March and 2 June 1995.

SUBSCRIPTIONS (£3) ARE DUE FOR RENEWAL - PLEASE USE THE FORM ENCLOSED