

FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

No. 45

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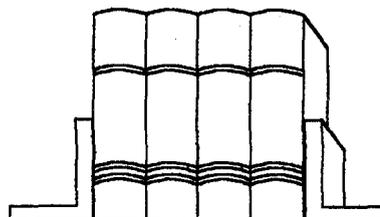
FROM THE NEW EDITOR

Hello, my name's Helen Poskitt and I'm your new Editor of the quarterly Newsletter. Many thanks to Valerie Bott and James Wisdom who have tirelessly edited the previous 44 editions.

I welcome any items you think would be suitable for future Friends' Newsletters, e.g; witty snippets, your views concerning Gunnersbury Park, interesting historical facts - even items for sale.

Please send to: The Editor, 14 Manor Gardens, Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU
I look forward to hearing from you!
Ed.

PS: A Gentle Reminder that SUBS (£3.00) are due on January 1!
Cheques should be made out to Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum, and sent to:
**The Membership Secretary
39, Lionel Road
Brentford
TW8 9QZ**



PRIZE-GIVING

This year, for the first time, we are making donations to Capel Manor. Last year we agreed to give them £70.00 pa for four years, for students who made the best contribution to Gunnersbury Park. The first award was made recently, and the student concerned was clearly the specialist garden books that made up the prize.

Capel Manor now has three bases apart from Gunnersbury; at Regent's Park, Upminster and Capel Manor near Enfield. They are the Agricultural and Horticultural College for greater London.

Good News: Capel Manor recently won a contract to train gardeners for the royal parks.

lottery news



The park bid was submitted on time in September, along with over 100 other bids from parks all over Britain. The Heritage Lottery Fund expects to announce the grants awarded next Spring. Sarah Levitt addressed the AGM on the subject of the museum bid which will be submitted later in 1997.

INTERVIEW WITH A PARK PERSON

This Quarter it's
with... MIKE
ROWAN

Mike Rowan has been Principal Parks Promotions Officer, dealing with all the parks in Hounslow since 1992. However he has been connected with Gunnersbury Park since 1983 when, aged 27, he ran a nursery there. Later he was park Foreman, before overseeing the park answering to Superintendent John Stockdale.

Now, Mike mainly works with the community to carry out research to make the park accessible to as many different types of people as possible. He says: "The one thing that parks are appalling at - and Gunnersbury is no exception - is provision for kids in the 12 to 17-year-old age group. There are playgrounds for the younger children, and bowling for people who are financially independent, but there isn't anything freely available for teenagers [with the emphasis on *free*]. They have independence of mind, and want to go out with friends. We are considering putting in baseball facilities and setting up more youth provision."

Mike commissioned and wrote the recent Marketing Plan (June 1996) which is inside the park lottery bid. From this we learn that the park is very popular with 31-40 year old visitors: 49 per cent of them female, 51 per cent male. The largest group using Gunnersbury Park are people aged 30-49 with children. Parents aged under-30 with children form 10 per cent of visitors, compared with 19 per cent of childless adults in the same age group. Very few disabled people were shown to be using the park, but this may be due to the bad weather when the survey was carried out. The museum scored highly for disabled visitors at the time, which supports this. Dog-walkers who use the park haven't been surveyed as a separate group.

The procedure in Mike's job as adviser on policy is as follows: if he wished to ban football in the park, for example, he would support this policy with information from the community, and then include it as part of a recommendation to committee.

Mike has worked hard on the park lottery bid; now everyone can only wait to hear whether the park has been awarded money. The main idea is not for Gunnersbury Park to be put back to the way it looked 50 years ago. It is to make the park more accessible to the community, in all its different aspects.

NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome:

Bill Hardman (Committee),
Gisella Gunston (Committee)
and
Hester van der Wilk

For Sale

Electra Washing Machine &
Tumble Dryer
Good Condition £80
Buyer collects
Please call
01 81 992 9443

GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

• 30 November : Museum, Victorian Kitchens, 1 -4 pm

A *What's It Worth?* antiques valuation afternoon, and *Promises Sale* is being run by the Museum, to help raise money for their Lottery Bid.

Academy Auctioneers & Valuers will be valuing all types of objects, at a cost of £2 per item. If objects are too large to carry to the museum, photographs are acceptable. Entertainment will be provided by the Temple Musicians in costume, there will also be wine-tasting, as well as refreshments.

Promises donated by the Museum's supporters will be on sale, and will go to the highest *bidders*.

PLEASE CONTACT Claire Connaughton or Sarah Levitt at the Museum (01 81 992 1 61 2) if you can help with:

- A *promise*; *promises* can be anything - from free tickets to a home-made cake.
 - Stewarding, serving tea or providing refreshments
- OR**
- Are you a member of an organisation which could help with a fund-raising event? Fund-raising info. packs (£1) will be available on the day.

Please note that the valuations are being done by an independent company not connected with Gunnersbury Park or the Museum - Ed.

• October 19, 1996 - September 1 1997

The new *All Dressed Up* Exhibition features a new painting acquired by the Museum entitled *Dressing Up for Christmas* by Frank Watkins of Feltham c.1888.

Also on show will be many different costumes from

special occasions... A Pearly King outfit, a Victorian Wedding dress - and an ancient corset . There will also be *dressing-up* clothes to try on.

Please contact the Museum if you have a Father Christmas suit you are not using, as they would like one to borrow for the Exhibition.

The Conservatory



"I'd have to think about which are my favourite plants", says Fred Sherley. Twice a week he works as a volunteer at the Gunnersbury Park conservatory - he's been doing so for 18 months. The park is within walking distance of the Sherleys' home in Acton. Fred and his wife Doris took over from Marianne Booth, who previously voluntarily cared for the conservatory. Fred Sherley waters and re-pots plants for up to an hour at a time, and Doris has often shared the tasks. Fortunately there is a tap on site with which to fill the watering can, as there are now more than 100 plants in the conservatory. The plants were kindly donated by Kew Gardens, the public and Poores of Acton. Fred Sherley is a keen gardener, but has no previous experience of this type of horticulture. Despite this, he says he enjoys working in the conservatory. The glass extension is east-facing, so the sun is only directly overhead during summer mornings. In the winter, radiators keep the large room warm at a steady 65°.

I was a bit perturbed to hear that Fred Sherley is thinking of giving up his allotment, as it's becoming very overgrown. We trust he isn't neglecting his vegetables for the conservatory flowers..? Ed.

THE NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY ISSUES:

February	Spring Lecture details
May	Summer Gala details
August	September Fete details
November	Christmas event details

Another Gentle Reminder that subs are due on January 1 ...

This Newsletter is edited by H Poskitt Bingham, 14 Manor Gardens, Gunnersbury Avenue
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