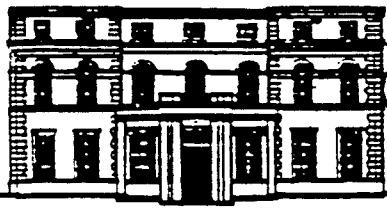
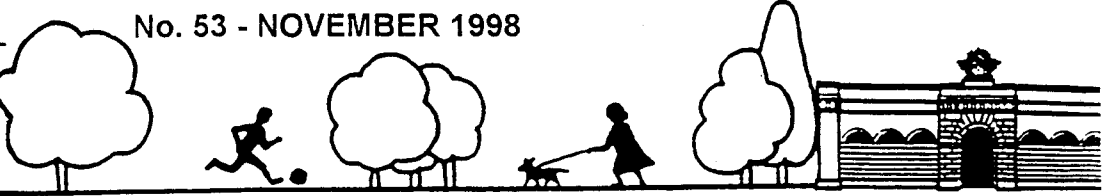


# FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

# NEWSLETTER



No. 53 - NOVEMBER 1998



## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends

Welcome to another edition of the newsletter. Inside you'll find details of Christmas festivities in the mansion - not to be missed! - an exhibition at the small mansion arts centre, park bulb planting... Not to mention the very successful presentation of awards to Capel Manor students.

If all this doesn't inspire you to visit Gunnersbury Park's 186 acres of parkland for a brisk walk on one of these beautiful autumnal days we are presently enjoying - how about popping into the museum and seeing one of the free exhibitions, playing a leisurely round of mini-golf or enjoying a cup of coffee in the smart park cafe? Younger family members needn't feel left out either, with the wonderfully renovated children's playground, as well as many children's free museum events.

However you decide to enjoy it, here's wishing you all an early Merry Christmas!

*The Editor, 14 Manor Gardens,  
Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU*

**ANYONE FOR CROQUET?**  
*I have had a query from Ms Joyce Rogers, as to whether anyone knows of local croquet classes and facilities. Can anyone help with info. on this? (Please contact Helen on 993 1773.)*

## PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

### CAPEL MANOR



The annual presentation of awards took place in the Small Mansion Terrace Room on 25 September in the presence of Councillor Rajinder Bath, the Mayor of Hounslow. The buffet and refreshments provided were excellent.

The students had all achieved good results, reflecting the excellence of the various Horticultural, Floristry and Balloon Artistry courses run by Capel Manor. The Friends of Gunnersbury Park Award - given to the student who has contributed most to Gunnersbury Park and Capel Manor - is always a closely guarded secret, announced only on the night. This year it was awarded to Joseph Watson.

**Balloon Artistry is one of the fastest growing industries in the UK and courses are very much in demand at Gunnersbury.**

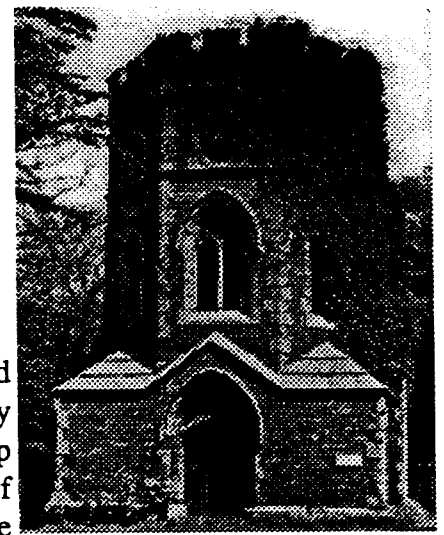
## **Gunnersbury Courses 98/99**

*Full-time Courses available  
at Gunnersbury*

- NVQ I Amenity Horticulture
- NVQ Level II Options
- RHS Certificate Day or Evening Courses
- Year 1 NVQ II Floristry
- Year 2 NVQ II Floristry
- City & Guilds Balloons 7802
- City & Guilds Balloons 7900

**Telephone: 0181 366 4442**

# The Gothic Tower and Potomac



In 1861 Baron Lionel de Rothschild extended Gunnersbury Park by purchasing 331 acres from the Bishop of London. In the south west corner of this newly enlarged estate was a huge former clay pit called Cole's Hole. To the side of the pit sat a disused tile kiln. Although this was the only clay pit on the estate there were other clay pits close by; these have since been built on. The area is now known as Clayponds Estate.

Lionel de Rothschild re-landscaped Cole's Hole to form a picturesque boating lake which he renamed the Potomac Pond. The old tile kiln was then very cleverly converted to a tower-cum-boathouse folly.

The man responsible for the design and creation of the Potomac Pond and Gothic Tower was J.W.Pulham. Pulham, being from a family of gardener/architects, had developed a type of artificial stone which he had subsequently patented under the name Pulhamite. This type of artificial stone can be seen around the arched boat inlet and island at the bottom tower.

In its heyday the tower which is an octagonal building mounted on a square basement, would have had leaded windows in the upper gallery. The tower would have been externally rendered and the remains of the stucco heads can still be seen on each side of the three arches on the ground floor.

The tower has three floors: the lowest being at the level of the pond with a grotto-like arched inlet for a single pleasure boat. A narrow spiral staircase leads to the ground floor a vaulted chamber and then up into the light and spacious upper gallery. This gallery would have been used as an observation room from which the picturesque surroundings of Potomac could be seen.

The tower at one point also functioned as a bell tower. The bell was presumably rung to alert the distant household staff of the returning boating party.

Since Gunnersbury became a public park, the Potomac has become a popular fishing lake. Carp up to 24lb, and Pike up to 34lb have been caught along with Perch, Roach, and the occasional Eel. The Carp can often be seen basking in shoals near the surface on sunny days. Other wildlife often seen in this area are the wildfowl such as Tufted ducks, Mallard ducks, Little Grebe's, Great Crested Grebes, Moorhens, Coots and of course Canadian Geese. You may also see Woodpeckers, Tree Creepers and Longtailed Tits fluttering amongst the tree tops. During the Summer look out for the Dragonflies (who sit with their wings open) and the Damsel flies (who sit with their wings closed) darting across the water along with a number of different butterflies including the Peacock, Tortoiseshell, Meadow Brown and Orange Tip. Of course the Potomac wouldn't seem like a part of the park if it didn't have its most common vertebrate - the Grey Squirrel.

To contact us:  
the Parks Information Officers  
Tel: 0181 993 2055.

**THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE  
INTERESTING LEAFLETS  
AVAILABLE FROM THE  
NORTH LODGE INFO. CENTRE**

Gunnersbury Park  
Joint Committee

# GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

- **Remembering the 1930s**

Memories of living and working in west London come alive in this event with taped interviews with residents, photos and advertising logos. (A resource pack will also be available for teachers.)

*July 20, 1998 - January 17, 1999*

- **Treasures**

From cleaners to curators - the staff at Gunnersbury have chosen their favourite museum objects to show you.

- **Mrs Beeton's Business**

Victorian home life as revealed by the Beeton's.

*Begins November 1998*

- **Ink to Internet**

From pens to printing, modems to mobiles - an exhibition about changing forms of communication.

*March 1999 onwards (1-4pm)*

- **When in the Long Gallery ...**

Remember to look up at *The Four Seasons*, a beautiful ceiling painting by E T Parris (c1836)

## **Teachers amongst you may be interested by the Museum's education programme**

- **Children**

Come and discover what it was like to go to school in Victorian times!

- **Victorian Kitchens II**

The butler or maid will help visitors experience the reality of life below stairs

*Booking essential*

- **Workshops cover:**

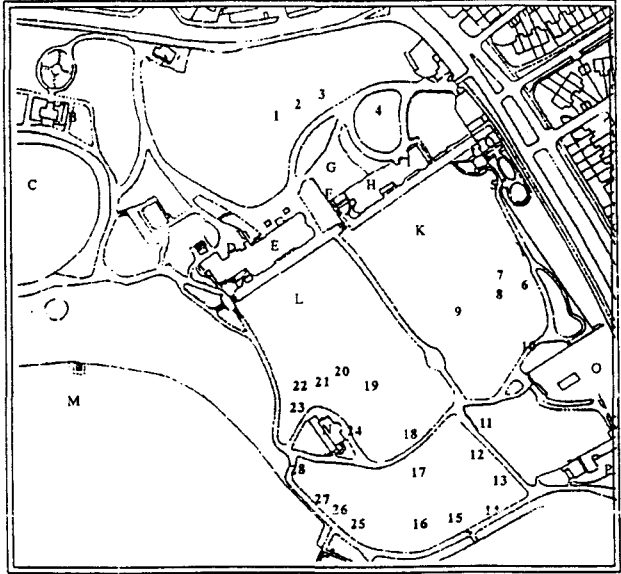
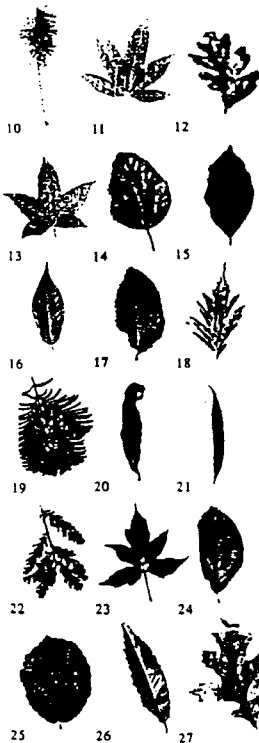
The Romans, The Victorians, World War II, The 50s & 60s, Science Alive, Tudors

*For more info. call Sue McAlpine or Adam Senior on 0181- 992 2247*



### *Park bulb planting*

*... of thousands of daffodils and bluebells will take place on Sunday 29 November! We'll be meeting at 10am at the park gate opposite the school in Lionel Road school to create our annual floral display for the Spring.*



**PARK KEY**

A	North Lodge Info Centre	I	Arts Centre
B	Temple	J	Bath House Complex
C	Round Pond	K	Small Mansion Lawn
D	Cafe	L	Large Mansion Lawn
E	Large Mansion/Museum	M	Golf Course
F	Toilets	N	Orangery
G	Small Mansion Car Park	O	Folly & Japanese Garden complex
H	Small Mansion	P	Stable Complex



**LEAF KEY**

(1) DEODAR CEDAR	(15) COPPER BEECH
(2) ATLAS CEDAR	(16) CHERRY
(3) YE'Y	(17) SCOLE BEECH
(4) TULIP TREE	(18) FERN-LEAVED BEECH
(5) INDIAN BEAN	(19) DAWN REDWOOD
(6) MAIDENHAIR TREE	(20) COTORTED WILLOW
(7) COMMON BEECH	(21) WEEPING WILLOW
(8) WHITE MUL BERRY	(22) SWAMP CYPRESS
(9) KEAKI	(23) ASH-LEAVED MAPLE
(10) EUROPEAN LARCH	(24) PURPLE-LEAVED PLUM
(11) JAPANESE MAPLE	(25) HAZEL
(12) HAWTHORN	(26) SWEET CHESTNUT
(13) SWEET GUM	(27) PIN OAK
(14) BLACK MULBERRY	(28) MEDLAR

Produced for Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee

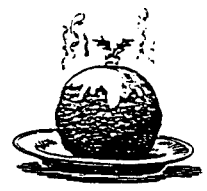
INFO: Available from the North Lodge Information Centre

# CHRISTMAS at GUNNERSBURY

You are invited to Gunnersbury Mansion for an evening of Christmas Entertainment.

Seasonal sketches and songs  
Christmas tree dressing  
Stir the pudding & make a wish

*Refreshments Included*



Dates: Thursday 17 December  
Friday 18 December  
Time: 8pm  
Price: £4 Concessions £3

Gunnersbury Park Museum, London W3  
For details ☎ 0181 992 1612



Newsletter edited by: H Poskitt, 14 Manor Gdns.  
Gunnersbury Avenue, London W3 8JU

## 'DOWN THE GARDEN PATH'

NEW PAINTINGS BY  
**CHRIS SPRING**

16th NOVEMBER – 6th DECEMBER 1998  
12 - 4 pm DAILY. CLOSED FRIDAY

PRIVATE VIEW  
SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER, 12.00 - 3.00 pm

EXHIBITION OPENED BY  
STEPHEN POUND MP

THE SMALL MANSION ARTS CENTRE  
GUNNERSBURY PARK, POPES LANE,  
LONDON W3  
TEL: 0181 993 8312 or 0181 992 7430