



Annual General Meeting 2017, 10am Saturday 30 September

Our annual general meeting will take place at Capel Manor College inside the Walled Garden at Gunnersbury. Access is via the gate in the wall opposite the car park off Popes Lane. All paid up members are welcome; please bring your membership card with you. David Bowler, the new Chief Executive at Gunnersbury, will join us in a round-table discussion.

Gunnersbury Regeneration Update

Since *Newsletter* 106 a great deal has been happening on site. There is no substitute for walking round! Regular Twitter updates and photos appear on @gunnersbury1 and news on visitgunnersbury.org. Unforeseen problems with the Large Mansion have caused delays and increased costs so the Project Team has now asked the Heritage Lottery Fund for additional grant funding. Elements of the work in the Park are opening gradually, while the Museum and newly-built Café will be launched in spring 2018.



View from the scaffolding platform, Large Mansion Drawing Room



The mastiff en route to the Café

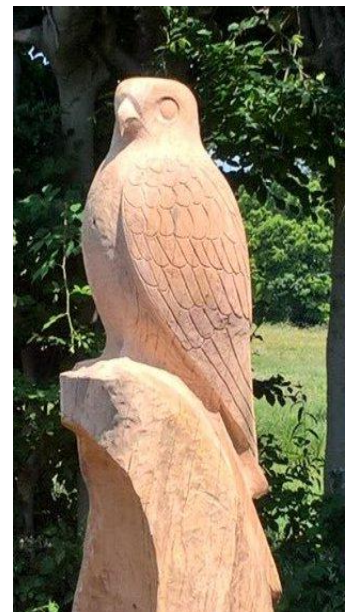
In the Large Mansion work is progressing on the plasterwork using colour schemes based on an analysis of surviving historic paints. New benches and bins have been installed. Work on the Round Pond and Temple has been completed and the fencing there has recently been removed.

The wildflower meadow sown on mud dredged from the Round Pond attracted huge praise in early July. The Kitchen Garden's "ruined" walls now have elegant new iron gates. This year the very productive vegetables almost took over at one stage!

Seating for the nature trails has been made by the wood carvers and their handsome and amusing wood sculptures have appeared, including a fine hawk.

The painting of the Park in 1933, by Maxwell Ashby Armfield, acquired last year, has been conserved. The script for the exhibitions has been completed and the display structures for the Museum galleries are now being manufactured.

Short films are in production, including one which animates a remarkable group of prehistoric figures from Hounslow, now in the British Museum's collections.



The carved hawk



Nature trail seating

ADAM FAWKES



Gunnersbury's horticultural apprentice, Adam Fawkes, has been working in this role for about a year now. One day a week he studies Level 2 Horticulture at Capel Manor College at Gunnersbury and he works in the Park for the rest of the week. The scheme pays a modest wage and covers his course fees.

Adam is clearly enjoying himself. He is now 25 and had been running the parts department of a car dealership, responsible for ordering, maintaining stock and customer service, but was made redundant after a business reorganisation. He obtained an administrative apprenticeship based at Ealing Council's Perceval House but found that office work was not really for him. He leapt at the chance of transferring to the Gunnersbury apprenticeship instead.

Dormers Wells School, where he was a pupil, offered horticulture, one of the first schools to do so. This gave Adam a taste for the subject and occasionally he had worked with a gardener friend. Chris Ellis, Gunnersbury's head gardener, now trusts him to manage much of his own work.

In the greenhouse behind the North Lodge, Adam has been nurturing seedlings, mainly for the kitchen garden near the Stables. He works there on Wednesdays with the volunteer team. He oversaw the planting of the heritage orchard (near the North Circular Road) with Capel Manor students and has worked on creating the new nature trail. He aims to gain more skills at Capel Manor, in horticulture and arboriculture, eventually moving to live and work somewhere more rural.

DONATIONS, OBLIGATIONS

This is a summary of funding promised to the Park and Museum by the Friends. We have used these principles:

- that it isn't a charitable objective to replace Council Tax so we should focus on funding improvements outside the usual budget,
- that requests should come from the managers not the councillors (for many years councillors asked us to volunteer to paint the railings because they couldn't afford it, for example), and
- that we are reluctant to spend our capital, which has been carefully invested and is reasonably secure, but keen to support projects from our income.

Over the years we have paid for specialist equipment, acquisitions for the museum collections and trees and bulbs to be planted in the Park, for example.

We are committed to these projects:

- **The *Parks for People* project**
We agreed £12,000 (£3,000 pa for 4 years) to support the grant bid. The aim was to share equally with Capel Manor the cost of a co-ordinator who would encourage volunteering. They would work alongside Capel's teachers to get students working in the Park and with new Capel graduates who want to build

up their CVs. This is a good example of the use of income for project funding.

The arrival of Chris Ellis as head gardener and the enthusiasm of Sarah Seery, the Head of Capel Manor's School of Horticulture, has meant that Capel's students have been involved a great deal without anyone requiring our cash. Our contribution remains part of the project's essential partnership funding, so we have asked the new CEO, David Bowler, and Chris Ellis for advice on wise ways to spend it, preferably on learning and volunteering.

- **Restoration work in the NE corner of the Park**

The committee agreed to give £6,617 to release a Historic England grant of £73,512 for works in the area of the Park near Princess Amelia's grotto.

- **Maxwell Ashby Armfield painting of the Park, 1933**

We offered to help with the cost at auction. However, the Museum obtained grants to cover this so we are paying about £3,000 for conservation and re-framing instead.

- **Acquiring the Dawson Panel for the Museum**

We promised £1,130 to unlock the large grants for this.

- **The *Gunnersbury Park* book published by Scala**

We are investing £15,000 (of which £5,000 comes from a grant from the John & Ruth Howard Trust) in this book, to be published in spring 2018. This funds the cost of images and reproduction rights plus the printing of 5,000 books, while Scala Publications undertakes editing, high-quality design, production and promotion. We will sell at a wholesale price to the Museum, and hopefully the Café, to recoup our costs for future projects while they will benefit from the profits.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE PARK

Hounslow Council's Licensing Committee has granted an events licence for Gunnersbury which will increase the number of permitted events and allow more large ones than the Park has hosted in the past. It is a complex licence, specifying the numbers of small, medium, large and special events (the special events would be the equivalent of the Mela), the maximum number of days each year when the various sized events may be held (taking all four sizes together, no more than 28), the intervals between events on the various zones of the Park, the sale of alcohol and event ending times.

Residents around the Park have always been alert to major park events (in the 1980s there were various disputed plans for pop concerts, and the introduction of the Mela was very contentious). When the licence application was sent to residents for consultation, it created a lot of consternation. 109 objections on various grounds went in, 25 people attended the hearing, two Ealing Councillors (Jon Ball and Joanna Dabrowska) made representations, and the fraught meeting ended after midnight.

Unusually, the Friends were not included in the consultation, so we had little time to consult our members, but we had been involved in discussions at recent meetings of the Gunnersbury Park Joint Advisory Panel about the *Events Policy*, a substantial document which laid out principles. In our letter to the Licensing Committee we noted that well-managed events could benefit the Park, that they must not be run to the detriment of other park visitors, that the management team would be new and the Park landscape will have been changed so a trial year would be sensible, and that monthly limits would be sensible to avoid the bunching of events into the summer.

Given the capacity of the Park and of its management, putting in the most extreme licence application was unrealistic, and it has left the new Community Interest Company with some antagonised neighbours. The unknown element in all this is how important the income from events will be in financing the long-term future of the park.

The relevant documents are here: <http://tinyurl.com/yaolw7hw>

FUND-RAISING

In *Newsletter* 106 there was an account of plans to raise funds to buy a fabulous enamel panel for the Museum. It was made by Edith Dawson in 1903 and set into a silver frame decorated with large cabochon pearls made in 1923 by her husband Nelson Dawson. They lived and worked on Chiswick Mall. There was nothing quite so glamorous in the Museum collection.

Fund-raising was being led by the Gunnersbury Development Trust (GDT). We are delighted to report that the £28,000 purchase price has been raised. Working with the Curator, two grants were obtained: £14,000 from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund and £11,000 from the Art Fund. Donations from local organisations and private individuals, some of which came from our appeal, totalled £1,870. The Friends committee supported the purchase with a donation of £1,130 to make up the balance.

DEVELOPMENT SITES NEAR THE PARK

There are 3 development sites south of the Park, two of which will have an impact on Gunnersbury's visitors. A consultation exhibition on the B&Q site by Chiswick Roundabout introduced "Hudson Square" – the name given to the proposed mixed-use development. This will build, amongst other things, 3 large apartment blocks by the railway line. Until they submit a planning application we will not know the height of these, but their words "in keeping with similar emerging developments for the area" implies very tall.

Student accommodation and starter units are proposed for the corner of Power Road and the North Circular. At the consultation exhibition we learnt that they hope for 13 storeys at full extent and 3 more on half the top of the building. It is less likely to be a significant visual intrusion on the Park.

The developers of 32-storey *The Curve* on Chiswick Roundabout have appealed against rejection of their plans. These are the people who said that 32 storeys would not be detrimental to the Park as their buildings would be so beautiful to look at! We cannot yet discover their grounds for appeal, so we cannot challenge them. If nothing new emerges our earlier letter of objection will be used as evidence in the appeal.

The Garfield Weston Foundation has made a grant of £75,000 to the Development Trust for Gunnersbury's future learning programme.

Long-standing Friends' member, Glen Barnham, tipped us off about a new Co-operative Society scheme giving community grants using carrier bag funding. The Friends have submitted an initial application to support the Museum's planned community quilting project in 2018. This will use a historic quilt from the collection as inspiration. Fingers crossed!

CAPEL MANOR PRIZE

For many years now the Friends have funded a prize for the student who has contributed most to Gunnersbury. We are delighted to report that the staff team agreed unanimously that it should go to **Donaise Turner**, a Level 2 Horticulture Diploma student.



Donaise receiving his certificate from Matt Watson, Head of Capel at Gunnersbury

Donaise started as a Level 2 Diploma Animal Care student in 2015. When he had completed that Diploma successfully he decided he would to combine looking after animals and plants. So he enrolled on the Level 2 Horticulture programme where he has flourished.

A kind and observant man, he is always willing to help. He has shown an enthusiastic ability for the practical work and completes course work with diligence. He has become a Garden Volunteer for Capel Manor giving up his own time for Open Days and, on his days off, improving the Capel Manor grounds at Gunnersbury. His reliable nature meant that the College did not hesitate to recommend him for a local gardening job. His employer regularly visits Capel and is effusive in his praise for Don's work in his garden.

DON'T MISS

Next Capel Manor Advice Evening
14 September, 5.00 to 7.30pm

Next Capel Manor Open Day
14 October, 10am to 3.00pm

EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

The Gunnersbury team has developed creative adult learning workshops led by local artists. Booking is essential, online at visitgunnersbury.org/category/events/ or by email gunnersburylearning@ealing.gov.uk

WOODCARVING: one-day workshop, Monday, 25 September, led by Bill Hudson and Acton-based Tim Norris, who have been creating benches and play sculptures for the park in the last year, inspired by the Gunnersbury itself and the collections. Participants will use a range of hand tools to create an original art work inspired by nature in the park. Cost £45

PHOTOGRAPHY: half day digital photography workshop for adult beginners and improvers, Saturday, 14 October, led by local photographer Maggi Marmion, who has been documenting the restoration of both Museum and Park. Participants need to bring a camera. You'll gain useful tips and advice on taking photographs in the park.

TREE WALK 10am to 12 noon, Sunday, 1 October, led by John Wells, identifying coniferous and broad-leaved trees in the Park and considering their origins and uses. Meet at café kiosk near the playground, free, all welcome.

The Museum will also be running **children's creative workshops** in the autumn, exploring Gunnersbury's natural environment with a series of walks and offering more folk music. Email gunnersbury@ealing.gov.uk for more information or to subscribe to their monthly *What's On* newsletter. Their website is at visitgunnersbury.org.

MUSEUM RECRUITMENT

The Museum wishes to appoint a free-lance heritage education specialist to develop object loan boxes and learning resources. The closing date is 15 September. The brief can be found at <http://bit.ly/1Vhoj8r>.

FRIENDS MEMBERSHIP

Subscriptions were due on 1 April; thank you to the majority of members who paid promptly. If you were already a member and have not yet paid, you will find a reminder slip in this *Newsletter*. Membership costs £10 a year, payable by Standing Order or by cheque. Subscriptions and donations via Gift Aid are welcome and we are pleased to discuss proposed legacies. Do encourage others to join if you can, as greater numbers make us stronger. At gunnersburyfriends.org/friends/join-the-friends you can find the membership form. Contact the Friends' Membership Secretary at 62 Creffield Road, London W3 9PS.

NEWSLETTER 107

This will be compiled in December. Please send items for inclusion to the Editor at info@gunnersburyfriends.org or by post to 25 Hartington Road, W4 3TL.