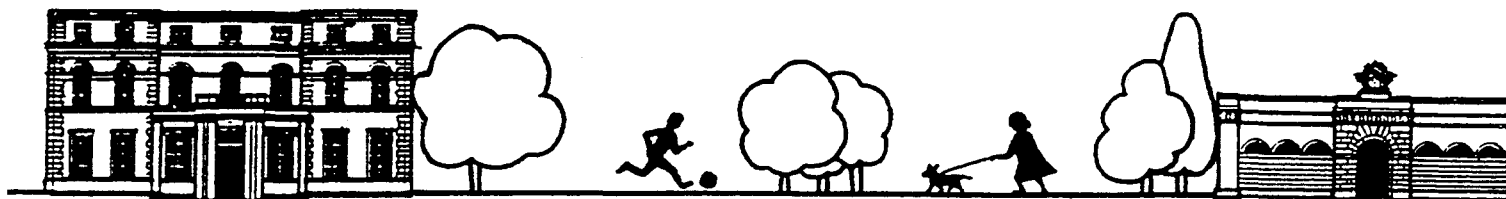


NEWSLETTER

No. 46



FROM THE EDITOR

**Hello everyone,
Welcome to the Spring edition of the Newsletter!**
I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. Now it's time to look forward to Park and Museum events in 1997. You'll find social events in the Newsletter, as well as interviews with people connected with the running of Gunnersbury Park.

We of course welcome any items you would like to contribute or have included in future editions.

Please send to: The Editor, 14 Manor Gardens, Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU

**I look forward to hearing from you!
Ed.**

If you've not had time to renew your membership, now's the time! Only £3 to belong to this distinguished and essential organisation - and in this Newsletter we've helpfully included your MEMBERSHIP SLIP...

****ADVERTISING****

Should you wish to *advertise* in the Newsletter, we'd welcome an accompanying donation.



lottery news

Fingers crossed everyone!

The date of the announcement by The Heritage Lottery Fund, of grants awarded in the first round of the lottery bid, is expected by the end of March.

exhibition launch

The launch of ON YER BIKE! on 1 February was a great success with many cycling enthusiasts and experts arriving to celebrate this environmentally-friendly mode of transport. Attendees included Rt Hon Sir George Young and Clive Soley, Labour MP for Hammersmith; also Syd Parker, record breaker of John O'Groats to Land's End on a tricycle, and Eddie Menday, announcer of the Milk Race (Tour of Britain) in the 50s. Mrs Howlett rode a tandem with husband and two boys (one in sidecar and one on the back), Stan Knight, a racer in the 40s and 50s came, as well as Johnny White, inventor and maker of the Cyclops machine. Derek from the Kew Bridge Steam Museum lent a Boneshaker and arrived on a Brompton.

Others present were Lionel Ferris - rider of a Penny Farthing, John Cotter, author of "Bantam Bicycles", Chris Nobel, who lent a Centaur bike amongst other types. Roger Woolsey (owner of Woolsey Cycles of Acton) kindly lent a trike, and Ken Kilvington from Mark Hall Cycle Museum. Geoff and Evelyn Paine lent costumes for the day, and are members of the Veteran Cycling Club.

Thanks to you all, and to the many others who attended.

The Museum staff would like to thank Joan Catterall for her help with refreshments on the day.

JOAN CATTERALL - SUPERWOMAN

Joan's 55, and whirring with energy. Which is fortunate, because just typing her voluntary civic duties makes this slothful journalist feel the need for an early lunch. Joan helped to form Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum Committee in 1981 - FROGs as she fondly terms it - and has been Membership Secretary ever since. One of the main duties involves fund-raising for Gunnersbury Park and the Museum. Joan does this in various ways: one of which is to run bric-a-brac stalls with daughter Lucy, husband John, Marianne Booth, and volunteers from the Friends. You may have seen the stalls at Hounslow, Turnham Green and Gunnersbury Park. Joan also organises the annual park Fete (September), helps with the Chiswick Extravaganza (August) and the Gunnersbury Gala (July). The 300 envelopes for this newsletter were all labelled by - well, guess who? That's right. Plus Joan also processes all membership fees.

Born and raised in Brentford, the second generation of Joan's family now live in the same house as their forebears - along with golden labrador, Charlie. Our Brentford Superwoman [should that be superperson?] has also been Vice-Chairman of Lionel Road Residents' Association for the past year, following 12 months as Secretary. This year the association is concentrating on traffic-calming in Lionel Road. This involves liaising with Hounslow Council, the



A.P. SYCAMORE JMC

*This is a copy of a copper engraving by
Joan, based on the seeds and patterns
seen under trees in the park*

Secretary,
Chairman and
Committee
members.

Joan is also housewife, mother, gardener - and an avid reader of anything by Dick Francis. She has recently fulfilled a long-term wish to study Art & Design GADii full-time at West Thames College. "My favourite artists are Impressionists: Renoir, Monet and Degas" says Joan enthusiastically.

Her ambition is to attend the prestigious St Martins Art College in central London. She'll know whether this is going to happen by June this year.

!BRIC A BRAC NEEDED**!**

Please contact 01 81 560 4262 should you have any china, books, clothes, etc. you wish to contribute



GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

- **30 January 1 997 - January 1 998.**

ON YER BIKE!

No, this isn't a reference to a well-known speech by Norman Tebbit. This exhibition includes penny farthings, baby bicycles and one of the worlds oldest motorbikes - and looks at all aspects of pedal-power. How do you fold up a bike to fit under your desk at work, for example? Very relevant in view of the latest ecology drive.

- **Until 5 September, 1 997**

All Dressed Up

The Exhibition features a new painting entitled *Dressing Up for Christmas* by Frank Watkins of Feltham c.1 888.

Also on show are many different costumes from special occasions... A Pearly King outfit, a Victorian Wedding dress - and an ancient corset. There are also dressing-up clothes to try on.

- **30 Years of West Middlesex Hospital Radio**

The story of hospital radio; also points of view from the patients!

- **Happy Birthday Gunnersbury Park! 1 926 - 1 996**

The Museum celebrates 70 public years of the much-loved Park in a special exhibition. From the days when a team of horses mowed the lawns, to the present.

Open 1 -4 pm daily. For further details re. the above or the education/school programme please contact 01 81 992 1 61 2

news update

WHAT'S IT WORTH?

The valuation event held at the Museum before Christmas was very popular, with crowds of people bringing along their antiques. Some were very pleasantly surprised. I've been trying to find out without success whether it's true that one visitor's vase turned out to be worth £850...?

CHRISTMAS PARTY

It was good to see so many friends, both old and new, turn out for the Party held in the Victorian Kitchens. A roaring fire, lively conversation, a positive feast of Christmas goodies and wine all helped to create a festive atmosphere.

The Conservatory



Fred Sherley reported at the Friends Committee meeting that all is well in the conservatory. We are now looking for Victorian plants that fit in with the period in which the house was built, as well as Victorian urns and flower pots. Suggestions for flora included azaleas, rhododendrons, aspidistras and ferns.

Can readers think of any other suitable plants?

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 ...

This Newsletter is edited by H Poskitt Bingham, 14 Manor Gardens, Gunnersbury Avenue London W3 8JU