

FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

No. 51 - MAY 1998



FROM THE EDITOR

Summer has arrived and looks as though it's here to stay! The trees in Gunnersbury Park, particularly the horse chestnuts, are blossoming beautifully.

The Friends are vital to the continuing success of Gunnersbury Park and Museum. We have spaces for new members too, so when renewing your membership how about mentioning our organisation to your friends and colleagues?

Our warmest congratulations to Sean Sherman on being appointed the new Curator. There are lots of other exciting pieces of news, and events inside the newsletter. Also a valuable opportunity to advertise.

We welcome any items you would like to contribute. Please send to:
*The Editor, 14 Manor Gardens,
Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU*
I look forward to hearing from you,
Ed

Useful telephone numbers

Parks and Promotions Section:

Parks Patrol Control Room	568 1738
Parks Services Officer	993 2055
Chiswick Information Centre	995 5390
Gunnersbury Information Centre	993 3508
Parks Information Officers	993 3508 993 2055
Hounslow Urban Farm Manager	751 0850

In the Civic Centre:

Principal Parks & Promotions Officer	862 5855
Parks Promotions Officer	862 5857
Lettings Section	862 5851
Play in the Community	862 5104
Arts, Venues & Events	862 5804

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GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

Half-Term Events

Magical Story-Telling Journey in the Travellers Exhibition

For the young and young at heart - make Carrot & Coriander Soup, Hoot like an Owl and Shake a Rainmaker, or have your fortune told, see a Shadow Show and find out the Secret of Life

Bank Holiday Monday May 25, May 26, May 31(2 & 3.30pm)

Victorian Kitchens - Lady Rothschild Entertains

Step back in time on May 31 as you see Lady Rothschild and her servants prepare to entertain the cream of nineteenth century society. Watch, or take part! The Staff are looking for suitable applicants to behave as model servants, or help Cook prepare delicacies, or assist the Butlers... Above all to know their place!

Interviews from 1 - 6pm on 31 May 31(all ages may apply)

Gunnersbury Gala

This gloriously popular annual event is here again with a wide selection of stalls and events to entertain the whole family!

July 12 (from 1pm onwards)

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

The Gunnersbury Park Event

As always happening on the first Sunday in September - we hope you will come and support us and other local charities as enthusiastically as you did last year

Fashion in Hogarth's Century

Lace and silk from Gunnersbury's wardrobes will be on show beside an outstanding loaned collection from the Embroiderers' Guild, Hampton Court

September 25, 1997 - September 26, 1998

Treasure Exhibition

This will open shortly. Do you have a favourite piece you like to see when you visit the Museum? If so drop Sue McAlpine a note at the Museum and you may find it on display.

Children's Sunday Afternoon Mini-Events

These are to entertain younger members of the family and are held on:

July 26, August 16 and August 23 (all at 2pm)

Continued ...

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
For more info. call Sue McAlpine or Adam Senior (0181- 992 2247)

TEA-MAKERS NEEDED URGENTLY ☆

If you are interested in helping out with teas etc. in the Victorian Kitchens on May 31, please contact Lynn (0181 992 1612)

BLUEBELLS

We would like to thank Sonia and her husband for the bluebells they have donated from their garden. If you have any to spare bluebells please don't throw them away, but plant them in wooded areas inside Gunnersbury Park. These run alongside the cemetery wall, either side of Potomac Lake, and backing onto Lionel Road.

If you have any queries please contact John or Nick at the North Lodge, or Joan Catterall, Membership Secretary of the Friends

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT GUNNERSBURY ...

PRINCESS AMELIA'S BATH HOUSE

Following funding from English Heritage, a full archaeological survey of the building has been carried out. This shows it to be an eighteenth century building, and future restoration will now be sure of being faithful to the original.

THE 'ORCHARD' PLAYGROUND

The playground will soon be transformed into the most modern of play areas. There are plans available in the North Lodge and on the board outside the main gate. The project should be completed by the next school holidays.

! A G M !

Please don't forget your Annual General Meeting - we really need the support of all the Friends at this important yearly decision-making meeting! It's good fun as well as a great opportunity to meet up with like-minded people.

(Time and venue to be arranged.)

LOTTERY



The Museum bid for funding of its restoration plan has been completed and submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Mike Rowan is running many new projects, and there will be explanatory signs near work sites. The Bath House is to be restored. New lamp posts are due to arrive soon: specialists from English Heritage have identified the precise shade of the original green paint used in the park, and not only lamp posts but other park furniture will be painted that colour. The drive is to be returned to its original shape, narrowed and gravelled - becoming ochre instead of black. Resurfacing will begin shortly. There has been much discussion regarding access to the park; there will be obstructions in place to stop anybody driving down, or parking on, the drive from the main gates to the Museum. By-law permission has been given to clamp cars.

Mike Rowan and the park staff are planning to renovate the shrub beds. New people are running the golf course, and organising the park cafe. There has also been interest expressed in the fishing concession.

Urgent remedial work was carried out on some of the park trees at the end of March, following a detailed survey by arboricultural experts.

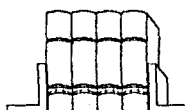
FRIENDS PROJECTS

We have recently donated £470 for new benches for children to sit on in the Small Conservatory. These are now in situ and looking splendid. As normal, we will be sponsoring Gunnersbury Gala this year.

We are giving £75 towards a clock for the Kitchens, which will either be new, or maybe a restoration of the Jullion clock that used to be in the Stables.

The Friends have also subscribed towards a special sort of coal necessary to burn on the fires in the Victorian Kitchens, and for the event, *Lady Rothschild Entertains* on May 31.

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NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY ISSUES:

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

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