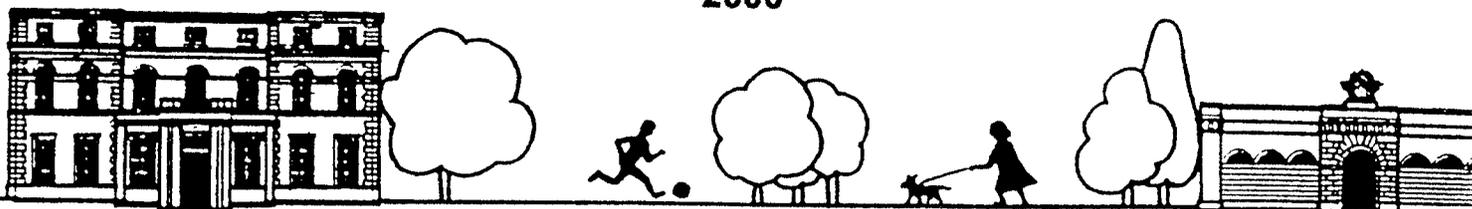


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

No. 59

2000



FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends

Welcome to the June edition of the Newsletter. I do apologise for the fact that it didn't appear in May as usual, but pressure of work intervened.

We would like to take this opportunity to belatedly thank Museum staff Vanda Foster and Sue McAlpine for the very entertaining, sociable evening they organised for the Friends on 11 April at the Museum. The subjects covered instigated a lot of discussion and memories amongst those whom attended.

Inside this Newsletter you will find the first excerpt from the 17 March report: *Gunnersbury Park into the 21st Century*.

Also enclosed is the latest Museum leaflet. As you will see there is a lot happening at Gunnersbury, so we hope you will continue to come along and participate. There are musical concerts, and for those feeling fit - or like me wishing to improve in that area - organised walks will be taking place shortly. The Park is wonderfully verdant at present - reaping the benefits of the wettest April since records began.

The next Newsletter will be on time in August (fingers crossed!). Here's wishing everyone an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM on 30 July.

Regards, Ed.

If you would like further details concerning anything in the Newsletter, please send correspondence to: 14 Manor Gardens Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU

JAPANESE GARDENS



There are some interesting developments occurring around the Japanese Gardens at Gunnersbury. There is a very large Japanese community living and working in west London which will be involved in the year-long, nationwide cultural festival "Japan 2001".

As part of this festival, Liam O'Brien and Phillida Purvis have formed a group to raise funds for the restoration of Gunnersbury's Japanese Garden, and already there has been some interest in newspapers and on television in Japan.

At the same time, studies are being done on how to use the derelict land north of the Stables (backing onto the Garden) as the site for Kyodo (Japanese ritual archery) and perhaps a small Japanese cultural centre. We are hoping that reports on this will be ready for the September meeting of the Gunnersbury Park Committee, when we will be able to bring Friends further news. We are supporting Liam and Phillida with their work - they are bringing exciting possibilities to the Park.



GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM EVENTS

For more information also e-mail: gp-museum@cip.org.uk

Please see the enclosed leaflet with the June Newsletter

A Free and Enjoyable Afternoon Out with the Family?

**- Visit Gunnersbury Park Museum Victorian Kitchens
Week-ends and Bank Holidays open 1-6pm**

CHIMNEY SWEEPING

Sue McAlpine needs an old round brush with rods as used by Chimney Sweeps in days of yore, for the Museum Education Team.

Burning the Bra

The next Museum exhibition to be staged is to be *Rebel Without a Bra* – about clothes that were fashionable but shocked the public, as in the 1920s.

Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum invites you to meet Miss Maud Watson the Ladies Lawn Tennis Champion (1884), who returns to Wimbledon to reminisce about her past triumphs and the perils of playing in petticoats and corsets!
Costume Gallery (11-1 and 2-4pm) 26, 27 and 28 August, 2 and 3 September

PORTMEIRION POTTERY EXHIBITION

Come and see the fascinating new retrospective of Portmeirion pottery at the Museum. As the display dates from 1960 to the present, you may recognise some of the exhibits!

CONCERTS IN THE PARK

Concerts will take place on 1, 2 and 3 September. The programme will include popular, classical and West End show music, with fireworks providing a grand finale. Not to be missed!

Tickets: £7.50 - £12.50. Location: Area between the Cemetery and the tennis courts.

Further details will be available from the North Lodge Info. Centre

CHILDREN Toys and Games of the Past – July 10 – 21

Rich and poor, spoilt children and street children. Come and see their toys and play their games from over 100 years ago (KS1 and 2)

FRIENDS ... Following on from the occasion organised by Vanda and Sue in April, we are trying to work out the best time of day to hold these events. The event in the Museum was from 6.30 onwards on a Tuesday in April (lighter evenings) – do you think the time was right, or would another one be more appropriate? Let us know.
Watch this space for details of the next event

AGM

It's that time again! This year it will be held from 2.00-3.00 on Sunday July 30 in the Small Mansion. There will be an optional Walk afterwards to view the new Lottery-funded developments in the Park. Would you like to join us by being elected to the Committee?

NEWSLETTER **QUARTERLY ISSUES:**

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

Gunnersbury Park Museum has established a popular programme of special events for visitors over the past three years. To build on this success they have secured funding from the *Heritage Lottery Fund* and the *Millennium Festival* as part of *Museums and Galleries Month 2000*. This will help to provide activities in the galleries on a regular basis. Twice a month (increasing to twice a week during school holidays) visitors can drop in and explore the past through objects, hands-on activities and a museum interpreter. It is designed to appeal to all visitors and especially to encourage family learning in museums.

SMALL MANSION ARTS **CENTRE**

Over the last ten years SMAC has delivered its educational activities in a variety of roles. The emphasis in the curriculum is to provide a creative working experience for students of any age and at any educational level.

Currently there are thirteen classes which take place every day and evening at the Small Mansion. Five of the classes are tutored by SMAC tutors, including drawing, painting and sculpture. There are also six adult education classes run by Ealing Tertiary College which use the Small Mansion facilities for drawing, watercolour and ceramic painting. There is also a class run by a local arts society. There are now approximately 200 Ealing and Hounslow residents visiting Gunnersbury Park to attend classes at SMAC every week.

The SMAC classes are organised in ten-week 'modules', repeated without breaks. This policy was adopted at the request of their students, who prefer this regular schedule.

Some of their students are beginners in the visual arts who want to experiment with formal training in an informal environment, where the only prerequisite for classes is willingness and interest.

Many of their students pursue art as an ongoing interest, returning to classes year after year. Some of their students have been attending classes for ten years.

For those students who are pursuing higher education, the Small Mansion Arts Centre has provided valuable pre-foundation opportunities. Their students have gone on to further and higher education courses at Glasgow School of Art, The Kent Institute, Farnham College of Art, Chelsea School of Art, the universities of East London and Brighton, Thames Valley University and Central St. Martin's College of Art.

GOINGS ON AT GUNNERSBURY

Walks and Talks are being prepared for Gunnersbury Park, concentrating on the history of the buildings in the Park, with additional details of its garden history. Marina Pacheco of the Community Initiative Partnerships is hoping to begin the programme of Walks next month. Marina also reports that the reconstruction of Princess Amelia's Bath House is well under way. The restoration is extensive and will take some time. The surroundings of the Round Pond are being re-landscaped. A plan of this work is currently on display in the North Lodge Information Centre.

Plans for the re-landscaped Italian Garden will be open to public consultation shortly. Anyone who is interested is invited to come and inspect the plans and give the CIP their opinion. This will then be relayed to the landscape architect in charge of the project.

The number of Ground Staff in the Park has been increased by two, to seven. They have recently been engaged in the formidable task of getting the bindweed under control.

GUNNERSBURY PARK INTO THE 21st CENTURY

**Excerpt One from the Report of Director for Cultural and Community Investment
Gunnorsbury Park Joint Committee 17 March 2000**

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE NORTH GARDENS

- 2.1 Close Main Gate to traffic other than people with disabilities.
This work is currently in progress.
- 2.2 Re-open gate to North Circular for Residents, Workers and Contractors.
Completed.
- 2.3 Designate car park for use by Residents, Workers, Contractors and people with disabilities.
This work is in progress.
- 2.4 Plant the boundary along Popes Lane to camouflage outside of park, leaving occasional gaps to entice people into the Park.
Work yet to be programmed.
- 2.5 Maintain in good repair remains of wall that divided the Estate.
Ongoing – but unsuitable planting has been removed.
- 2.6 Plant specimen trees on main lawn.
Ongoing as part of tree sponsorship scheme.
- 2.7 Re-tarmac main drive and hot tar spray chip to give the illusion of loose gravel.
Funding yet to be identified.
- 2.8 Repair and refurbish the Edwardian lamps.
Completed.
- 2.9 Replace 1960's 'globe light standards' with copies of the original Edwardian lamp.
Completed.
- 2.10 Re-design shrub borders along the drive and around the toddlers play area.
Completed.
- 2.11 Re-design border leading to toddlers play area to completely remove narrow footpath.
Amended in light of consultants report.
- 2.12 Re-design the border around the Small Mansion Car Park and the East Lodge.
Work yet to be programmed.
- 2.13 Up-grade toilet block – up-grade for people with disabilities and transfer to the RADAR system.
Work completed although feedback was not to use RADAR system.
- 2.14 Re-furbish the Winter Garden and re-stock with winter flowering bulbs.
Work to be programmed Autumn/Winter 2000/2001.
- 2.15 Re-name the Large Mansion, 'Gunnorsbury Park Mansion' and re-name the Small Mansion, 'Gunnorsbury House'.
Low priority – yet to be programmed.