

FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER

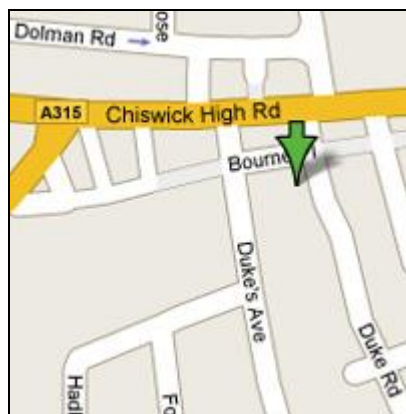
Gunnersbury Park: a Rothschild house 1835-1925 *An illustrated talk by Diana Davis*

7.30pm, 21 February 2011

This illustrated lecture is based upon Diana Davis's recent MA thesis, exploring the significance and style of the Large Mansion and how it was used both as a home and for glamorous entertaining.



This is a joint event with the Brentford & Chiswick Local History Society, which meets in an upper room at the Chiswick Memorial Club, Afton House, Bourne Place, Chiswick, W4 2EL. Admission is free. The meeting will begin with the Society's usual announcements at 7.30pm; please do not arrive before 7pm. The talk will last for about an hour and will be followed by time for questions and discussion. The Society also runs a local history bookstall at its meetings.



How to find Afton House

The arrow on the small map shows the location. Bourne Place is a short road which runs between Dukes Avenue, opposite Chiswick Library, and Duke Road, just south of Chiswick High Road.

There are parking restrictions until 7pm, after which time there is free parking in side streets.

Buses E3, H91, 237, 267, 272 and 391 stop in the High Road nearby.

JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Committee met on 19 November 2010, almost a year after the previous meeting. About a dozen members of the public, including 2 representatives of the Friends, were present. The Chair for the coming year is Cllr Yvonne Johnson (Ealing Council), a former member of the old Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee who has known the Park and Museum for many years.

The new committee agreed that the two local authorities would work together in a spirit of co-operation. As it would not be possible to implement the preferred option recommended by the *Options Appraisal*, they agreed to explore other viable options and to prepare an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, for submission in November 2011.

The Committee considered a paper outlining the master-planning work required, which includes a condition survey and a valuation of

the buildings, a museum feasibility study and a consultation process.

A budget of £495,000 has been allocated for preparing the HLF bid. They approved proposals for the creation of a Project Board, comprising senior officers of both local authorities, and a Project Team, on which the Friends are to be represented. The aim was to appoint specialist advisers speedily so that reports could be completed by April 2011. The Committee asked that the Gunnersbury Park & Museum web pages should be linked to the web-sites of both boroughs so that the public could follow progress.

Another meeting was held on 28 January at which the Committee received updates on the Park and Museum. The report on the Park is on Hounslow Council's website at <http://tinyurl.com/67stg6k>, and that on the Museum is at <http://tinyurl.com/64k4d7q>.

The Museum Curator's report included the fact that over 9,300 children had used its education services in the last year and the fact that specialist cataloguing software has been ordered to start the enormous task of documenting the collections. Damage after the theft of all the lead from the Small Mansion roof means that only the Terrace Room can be used for Museum education at present.

The Park Development Manager's report described a landscape master-planning exercise, which has already begun, and proposed reviews of the café operation and sports provision in the Park. Dual use pedestrian and cycle tracks are being considered and a suggestion that a community garden be developed in the area near the gothic ruins could not be pursued until its archaeology had been investigated, perhaps as a community project. Plans were being made to deal with problems with dogs near the café. This year's Mela would be held on 4 September.

THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE TOILETS

On a very cold 14 December, the Friends sponsored this event with mulled wine, roasted chestnuts and mince pies. Our photo shows left to right: James Wisdom (Friends), Calum Sayers (LBH Planning), John Catlin, David Cannon (B&H, main contractors), Cllr Corinna Smart (LBH cabinet member), Dave Rothwell (John Laing Integrated Services, managers of Gunnersbury), Bridget Gregory (LBE project manager), Richard Gill (Regeneration Manager), Maggie Urquhart (LBH conservation), Peter Reid P2Design (architects), Sean Doran (LBH planning)



THE NEWSLETTER

Next issue to be compiled in April – send contributions to Val Bott, 25 Hartington Rd, London W4 3TL ValBott@museums.freeserve.co.uk

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Our annual subscription is £5, due on 1 April. Send your cheque, made out to “the Friends of Gunnersbury Park & Museum”, to The Membership Secretary, Friends of Gunnersbury Park & Museum, 55 Park Drive, London W3 8ND. **Registered Charity no 286310**