

# FRIENDS OF GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM



**SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2019-20 ARE NOW DUE: See back page**

## **PARK WALK**

Our next event for Friends will be a walk on Sunday 9 June, starting from the Café at 10.30am. This gentle exploration will last about an hour and a half and you'll be back at the Café in time for lunch. All welcome, just turn up, we provide the guides and supply photocopies of old maps and prints to take with you!

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## **LOVEBOX & CITADEL FESTIVALS, 12-14 JULY**

The organisation behind Lovebox and Citadel, Festival Republic, has been offering briefing meetings in the Museum to keep local people up to date. The next one takes place on Monday 24 June (either 6 or 8 pm) – booking is essential but tickets are free at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lovebox-and-citadel-festivals-public-meetings-tickets-56040700243](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lovebox-and-citadel-festivals-public-meetings-tickets-56040700243) or <http://tinyurl.com/y38rmtnp>. They have recognised the failures over stewarding last year and promise “Stewarding improved – earlier start to stewarding operation, more back-ups, more robust stewards in key areas and better supervision and communication”. A second year of failure would cast doubt on their long-term agreement.

The organisers have appointed Jacqueline Sear to the rôle of the Community Manager. It is a part-time job with significant responsibilities. They have not publicised any other way of reaching the management of stewards during the three days of the event, so we to assume that it falls to the Community Manager at [Jacqueline.Sear@mamaco.com](mailto:Jacqueline.Sear@mamaco.com). Her main responsibilities are to:

- act as point of liaison and response for local residents during planning, live event days and post event
- attend planning meetings
- contact and liaise with local residents' groups and businesses
- maintain the community website – ensuring information, plans and decisions are communicated
- develop and implement plans for complaint logging during the live event
- ensure timely response to complaints
- attend any incidents external to the event site and co-ordinate the event's response
- identify and manage initiatives and programmes that serve the local community
- manage the ticket ballot scheme and the resident permit scheme
- act as the liaison point for local residents seeking opportunities to work at or with the events
- recruit organisations such as Triple P & Livity to provide programmes within local area, and
- manage charitable activities around the events

Hounslow and Ealing residents who live close to the park have received a letter from Gunnersbury CIC outlining details of the festivals and the consultation. Those who have received the letter are also eligible to enter a ballot of 800 free tickets. Others who want details of the programme and how to book tickets will find them here: at <https://loveboxfestival.com/>

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## **"GUNNERSVILLE" – SEPTEMBER CONCERTS**

Not only is Lovebox returning but Festival Republic is also negotiating with the Gunnersbury Community Interest Company (CIC) to hold concerts on 6, 7 and 8 September, with the possibility of two more on the following weekend. They are being branded as the “Gunnersville” concert series. We know very little about these events, other than that they will be given on a single stage on the site where Lovebox is set up, with audiences of 12,000 each night. We understand no formal agreement has yet been reached but Festival Republic have begun marketing them already with The Specials and Ocean Colour Scene.

News of this has been circulated by the Gunnersbury Park Event Team, run by The Event Umbrella. The usual procedures will have to be followed – public consultations, applications for licences, planning permission for building work, etc. If these fall through (as they did with the Ice Age Mammoth application) it is all at the promoter's risk.

We all know how important this additional income can be because the

CIC has to supplement or replace its local authority funding over the next few years. But the element of advance marketing before an agreement is reached could give the impression that the CIC is being bounced. When the Mammoths bid fell through, no matter that it was wholly the fault of the organisers, it still left posters all over the Underground, paragraphs in What's On magazines, and families gearing up for a fun day out, and created the impression that Gunnersbury was in a bit of a mess. It would be a powerful step in the right direction if the CIC published its own strategy for the nature and quantity of events it wanted in the park, and took charge of attracting them on its own terms.

## TRAVELLERS IN THE PARK

On 22 May a large encampment was set up overnight near the Potomac Lake. The group of travellers was believed to have moved from Carville Park on the opposite side of the A4 after Hounslow Council took legal action against them. The travellers

moved on again on 23 May and set up a new encampment on Chiswick Back Common, before moving once more to Dukes Meadows, near the Thames in Chiswick. A High Court injunction obtained by Ealing Council may have limited the number of incursions into public open spaces in that borough. However, this may be having an impact on neighbouring areas like Gunnersbury which lie outside Ealing's boundaries.

**We sent out the Gunnersbury brochure with the last Newsletter, but here and on the back page are details of some developments there and activities in which you can participate. Booking is necessary for most of these at <http://www.visitgunnersbury.org/category/events/>**

### PARALYMPIC HERITAGE

**1 June to 1 September**

This special exhibition, presented by the National Paralympic Heritage Trust reveals the history of disability sport and celebrates local sporting heroes.

### THE GUNNERSBURY MEADOW

For the last two summers the meadow in the southern part of the Park has been a beautiful sight. In early May it was sown with a mixture of Corn Cockle, Corn Chamomile, Cornflower, Corn Marigold and Field Poppy so that it will be spectacular once again. The bonus is that will also be a thriving wildlife community.

### QUEER STORIES

**20 July, 3–4pm**, free, book online  
From West Five to EM Forster's Blue Plaque and Dusty Springfield to Freddie Mercury, Assistant Curator Amy Dobson will present queer stories from Ealing and Hounslow for July's LGBTQ+ Pride month.

### FESTIVAL OF BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

**20 July PREHISTORIC WEST LONDON 1–2.30pm**  
**27 July ROMAN/MEDIAEVAL WEST LONDON 3–4 pm**  
Curator Julia Tubman will discuss some of the artefacts she selected to include in the Museum displays at each event. There will also be a chance to handle some items from the Museum's archaeological collection. Tickets for each of these events costs £10 per person, booking online is essential, see above.

### GIN & THE GEORGIANS

**2 July 7-8.30pm**

This talk by food historian and broadcaster, Dr Annie Gray (of Radio 4's *Kitchen Cabinet*) will look at the fashion for and risks associated with gin in the 18th century. It will be accompanied by a gin tasting.

Tickets £15 include a welcome drink and the gin tasting. Booking essential online.

### HISTORIC KITCHENS AFTER HOURS

**6 August 7– 8.30pm**

This tour of the 19th century Kitchen wing of the Large Mansion includes the main kitchen, scullery, pastry room, butchery and chef's room. It will also give a flavour of the elaborate menus the Rothschilds offered to their guests. Booking essential, tickets £10, including welcome drink

*Note: a Friends volunteer group undertook the first restoration of the kitchens in 1982. They de-rusted cooking ranges and other equipment and painstakingly removed paint splashes from floor tiles where park staff had painted boats and benches on wet days!*

## BOATING RETURNS TO THE ROUND POND

This summer Darren Farebrother, pictured right, will be offering a fleet of six pedalos for hire at weekends and on bank holidays from £7.50 per half hour. Darren grew up in Acton and fondly remembers boating on the pond as a child. His service will be carefully managed and weather conditions may occasionally prevent it from opening. No more than four people will be allowed in each craft. There must be someone aged 18 or older on each boat and those under 18 will be required to wear life jackets. The minimum age is one!



Simon Cranmer, Gunnersbury's Head of Operations, said, 'We're delighted to be able to restart boating on the Round Pond after a gap of more than 15 years. Not only will it be popular with our visitors but it also fulfills one of the objectives Hounslow and Ealing Councils set as part of the restoration project'.

Public boat hire began when the Park opened to visitors in 1926. It came to an end after problems with weed and with insurance. When the last operator retired in 2004 no replacement was found and it was decided to treat the Pond just as a place for waterfowl.



## SMALL MANSION & STABLES

The Steering Group led by the Gunnersbury Development Trust (GDT) has adopted the viability study on future uses for these buildings which it commissioned from Jura Consultants. The work was supported by a grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund. It focusses upon culture and learning as priorities, plus the potential for collections storage which would save the Museum the sum spent each year on off-site storage. A second AHF grant will fund a more detailed study with costings and the process of identifying appropriate users. The Friends committee has agreed to contribute £5,000 towards the partnership funding required, with the GDT contributing £10,000 and the CIC £8,000.

The overall cost of bringing the two buildings into use is likely to be over £10 million. Ealing and Hounslow Councils announced in late April that Highways England have agreed grants of over £2 million for emergency repair works. Historic England will also contribute over £250,000 towards repairs and essential design work by architects and structural engineers to inform future bids.

Highways England officials visited Gunnersbury in March and were very enthusiastic about the two buildings and their potential. We understand that further funds could come from this source in future. A very large team of commissioners and senior managers from Historic England also made a site visit in March, on a packed day when they also considered the potential impact of The Curve at Chiswick Roundabout and visited Kew Gardens and Pitzhanger Manor. We are told that they arrived at Gunnersbury interested and left very excited!

## THE SPORTS HUB

The frame of the building is up, revealing its sheer size. The main contract is running late so pitches are unlikely to be available before 2020. Greenscene/PHS have left the old nursery which is to become car parking. The Georgian brick wall on its boundary with Capel Manor's site was found to be in very poor condition and is to be repaired.

## PLANNING ISSUES

There remains some uncertainty over several developments which would have a significant impact upon the Park. The Inspector's report on the 32-storey block, The Curve, went to the Minister in December but we have no news about it. Plans for the B&Q site next door, to be called Hudson Square, include 17-storey towers.

The Secretary of State has decided that the site in Capital Interchange Way, south of the Park, where 16-storey blocks are proposed, should be the subject of a Public Inquiry.

## CAPEL MANOR COLLEGE OPEN DAY

The Gunnersbury Centre's free summer Open Day will be on Saturday 15 June 2019, 10am – 3pm, a chance to see inside the Walled Garden where areas are managed by students of horticulture and animal care, and view The Stumpery. Access through the gate from the Car Park.

## PITZHANGER MANOR

The £12m refurbishment of Sir John Soane's House in Mattock Lane was in progress at the same time a Gunnersbury's restoration Scheme. It is now complete. Details of prices, opening hours and online booking are on the web at [www.pitzhanger.org.uk](http://www.pitzhanger.org.uk)

## EXBURY CENTENARY

Three new gardens and a special exhibition at Exbury mark the 100th anniversary of Lionel de Rothschild's purchase. Many of the plants were moved from Gunnersbury. This is the time of year to see the rhododendrons and azaleas at their best. Full details at [www.exbury.co.uk](http://www.exbury.co.uk)

### A date for your diary

**FRIENDS AGM**  
**28 September 2019**  
**10am, venue to be announced**

## NEWSLETTER 113

We will be preparing the next issue of the *Newsletter* in August in time to give you details of the AGM (date above).

Your comments and contributions of news, images and ideas are always very welcome. Please send them to The Editor at 25 Hartington Road W4 3TL or to [info@gunnersburyfriends.org](mailto:info@gunnersburyfriends.org)

## PRINCESS AMELIA'S SUMMER BALL

**Friday 7 June 7 – 10pm**

Fancy dress is not required but is encouraged for this event in the Large Mansion, offering dancing and interactive performances from the Covent Garden Minuet Company, a Georgian dress-up selfie station, mask-making and a tasting and exploration of the importance of chocolate in the 18th century from The Chocolate Museum. Plus the premiere of a reinterpretation of Mozart's arias with live performers and a synth 'orchestra' from *\_Remix*. Tickets £10 per person, over 18 only, including a welcome drink. Booking essential at: [designmynight.com/london/whats-on/party/princess-amelias-summer-ball](http://designmynight.com/london/whats-on/party/princess-amelias-summer-ball)

## HIDDEN GARDEN HAIKU

**Saturday 29 June 10.30 – 12 noon**

This inspiring walkshop will take you from novice poet to wordsmith in under 90 minutes. Andrew Stuck and Mel Sutton from the Museum of Walking will guide you through exercises to connect with the natural environment and create your own haikus inspired by the Park. You'll also be introduced to mindfulness techniques and leave feeling reinvigorated. Tickets £8 per person. Booking essential at: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hidden-garden-haiku-tickets-54354073497](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hidden-garden-haiku-tickets-54354073497)

## TOURS

**TREE WALK Sunday 16 June 10 AM – 12 noon**

Local expert John Wells will lead a morning tree walk in Gunnersbury Park, focussing on identifying a selection of coniferous and broad-leaved trees whilst considering their origins and uses. Free but booking essential at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tree-walk-tickets-54353461667](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tree-walk-tickets-54353461667)

## COMMUNITY ORCHARD & KITCHEN GARDEN TOUR

**Wednesday 26 June 2-3pm**

Join Gunnersbury gardener Monika Barry to discover the heritage varieties grown in the Park and ask expert food grower Monika questions about your own crops. Free, book at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-orchard-kitchen-garden-tour-tickets-54353875906](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-orchard-kitchen-garden-tour-tickets-54353875906)

**HEAD GARDENER'S TOURS 25 June, 27 August 11.30 – 1pm**

A gentle stroll with Chris Ellis to see the many historic varieties of plants and trees in the Park, followed by a chance to see the new pop up exhibition about the Gunnersbury Restoration Project. £8, book at [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/head-gardeners-walk-tickets-54347248082](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/head-gardeners-walk-tickets-54347248082)

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our *Newsletter* is posted to all members 3 times a year. Subscriptions are renewable in April and cost £10, payable by Standing Order or by cheque. Subscriptions and donations attract Gift Aid and we are happy to discuss the possibility of legacies to support our work.

Do encourage others to join as greater numbers make us stronger and increase our funds. You can find a form on our website at [gunnersburyfriends.org/friends/join-the-friends](http://gunnersburyfriends.org/friends/join-the-friends). You can contact the Membership Secretary at 62 Creffield Road, London W3 9PS.

**If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2019-20 you will find a form enclosed with this *Newsletter***