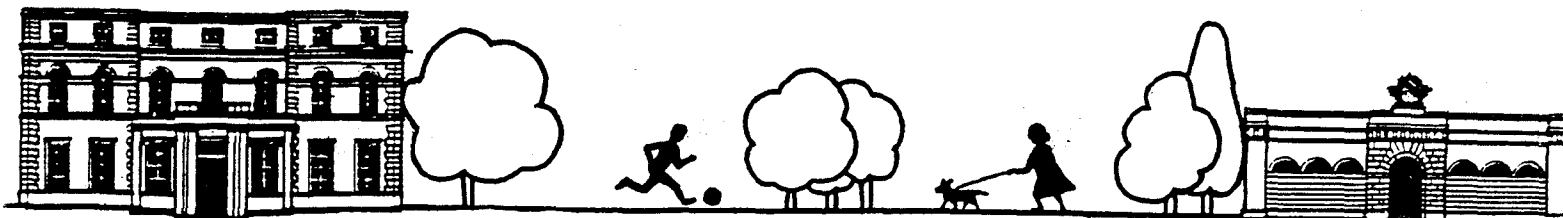


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER



SCULPTURE IN THE PARK

There's a huge sculpture exhibition in West London this summer - and Gunnersbury Park is home to half of it! The artists in the Small Mansion Arts Centre are collaborating with the Watermans Arts Centre in Brentford to put on this exciting exhibition. It is called "3D 89".

Some of the works will be displayed in the Park, some in the Art Gallery in the Small Mansion. The rest is at the Watermans Arts Centre and Park on the waterfront at Brentford. There will 37 sculptors' work on show.

The exhibition opens this weekend and runs until 3rd September. When you go to the park you will see all sorts of sculpture on the grass from the Small Mansion down to the Stables and in the secluded garden at the edge of the Park beside Gunnersbury Lane.

You will see sculpture made by cutting grass to different heights, clever adaptations of the Gothick brick walls that disguised the Stables and works of art using trees, leaves and other natural materials and themes.

And you will also see a sculpture sponsored by The Friends! We suggested that there should be a work on the theme of "Litter". The artists in the Small Mansion found a young artist, Caitlin Jones, and we left the interpretation up to her. She has produced a very fine pig, rooting around in a litter of litter, with litter in its body and a small pair of wings. When you come to the exhibition, make a point of finding The Litter Sow, our first sponsored sculpture!

Now, can you help? The Small Mansion Art Gallery is open from 12 o'clock until 4 on weekdays (except Mondays) and until 6 at weekends. They really are short of people to sit in the gallery while it is open and "invigilate" the exhibition. As Fred Lightfoot (the administrator of this lot) said it is ".... just a nice peaceful ambience with time to think, read, write letters or knit!"

I know that making appeals through this Newsletter is not usually very successful, because everybody who reads them thinks that everybody else will jump up and volunteer (but they don't!) So if you could spend a few hours at the Small Mansion Fred and his colleagues would be really grateful - or perhaps you have a friend who would be interested?

Please ring Fred Lightfoot on 993 8312. They have really worked hard to get this show on the road - it will make the Park a most interesting place to visit over the Summer, and now they are asking for help, through the Friends, to the local people who live near the Park and treasure it.

THE STABLES:

The "Swakeleys" scheme is to restore the buildings, convert the North Block to a museum, restore the Japanese Garden, install a 32 space car park off Gunnersbury Lane, convert the East Block to offices and build, in the same architectural style and to the same height, a new building for offices and studios on the land currently used by the outbuildings and boiler house.

LB Ealing wants this, LB Hounslow doesn't. Ealing wants to invoke arbitration. Hounslow is stalling for time.

Last week someone broke in and set fire to some boats. The doors of the Stables have been smashed off their hinges. The roof has been daubed with graffiti. Does Hounslow have any other solution?

They hope that the re-development of the Bus Works in Chiswick will pay for the restoration. But they won't even talk to the developer because his scheme is too ambitious! There is also a proposal to use the Stable to house vintage cars, but this scheme was not accepted by the Gunnersbury Park Committee.

The Brentford Community Council voted to go ahead with the Swakeleys scheme. The Commissioners of English Heritage have visited the Park to see the state it is in. How do you change Councillors' minds, before it is too late?

THE FETE/BAZAAR:

On 27th August (Sunday) down by the Children's Playground under the trees. From 11.00 a.m. onwards. Come and support us and other local charities.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Formal notice of this will go out when we have finished the arrangements and got the financial statement audited. We apologise for the delay but it will happen soon!

DONATIONS:

Have you seen the new signposts and noticeboards around the Park? We are donating £900 towards the cost of these (the proceeds of allowing a company to make a film in the Cafe). We have also paid for the printing of the postcard of the Rothschild's Kitchen Staff in 1914 (now on sale in the Museum). Other donations in the pipeline are extra radio equipment for the Park Staff and proper curtains or blinds for the Temple.

We raise the money for these things through your subscriptions and through our regular "Bric-a-brac and Books Sale" on the first Sunday of each month in the Cafe. If you have anything we could sell please phone Marianne Booth (992 9891), Joan Catterall (560 4262) or Jean Clark (567 5523).

THE MUSEUM:

Due to poor maintenance there has been an outbreak of dry rot in the Museum which has closed most of the Main Rooms and forced the postponement of the major exhibition, From Plough To Platter. The good news is the the Victorian Kitchens are now open every weekend during the summer.

This Newsletter was edited by James Wisdom, 994 4231.