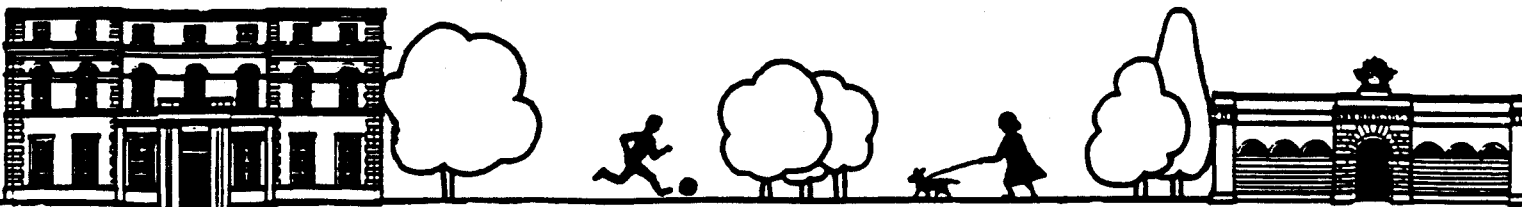


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

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NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL FUND-RAISING EVENT - 5th September

The Friends will be holding their annual event with other local charities on the 5th September from 11 a.m. in front the Museum. The other charities will include Guide Dogs for the Blind, the NSPCC, the National Deaf Society and the Cat Protection League, so we hope you will come along and support our efforts.

Your visit could also be an opportunity to visit the Victorian Kitchens and the Museum, bring along a picnic, have a ride on the boats and a game of golf - weather permitting, a good day out!

JAZZ IN THE ORANGERY

Due to popular demand - a return of The Jazz Saxes! We will be holding an afternoon of Jazz in the Orangery on Sunday 19th September, from 2.00. Seats: £1.50. The Jazz Saxes is a local, 10-person group whose event in front of the Small Mansion earlier this year is still being talked about. Don't miss it!

GUNNERSBURY PARK JOINT COMMITTEE

The diary of meetings: All Fridays, all start at 6.00: 24th September, 10th December, 18th March, 3rd June - either in the Small Mansion or Museum. The public are welcome.

We are expecting plans to be brought forward for 1) Riding School in the Stables; 2) Restoration of Amelia's Bath-House; 3) English Heritage will serve a "Repairs Notice". We will circulate a Newsletter with the details when they are known.

CONSERVATORY UPDATE

Visitors to the Gunnersbury Gala were able to visit the Conservatory and see progress. We have a fair number of plants, including some exotic species like Hibiscus and Abutilon, and most have been repotted in large clay pots bought with money generously donated by Friends.

Since then we have received further donations - wrought-iron brackets for hanging plants, a bamboo table with a brass tray which we hope to use for an "arrangement" and more plants. The first stage of our restoration is going well.

Between now and next summer we hope to install climbing plants and arrange special displays according to season. Marianne Booth is however aware of her limited horticultural knowledge and would welcome advice and suggestions for further developments - always provided they fit the Victorian character of the setting (992 9891).

"DODO": A Centenary exhibition and celebration of the life of E F Benson, at Gunnersbury Museum from 16th September 1993 to 13th March 1994.

E F Benson is remembered as the author of the "Mapp and Lucia" novels, set in the 1920s, which were televised on Channel 4. But his career began in 1893 with the publication of "Dodo", which featured a woman driven by impulsive love. A widespread rumour that the heroine was Margot Tennant, later Margot Asquith, added to the book's notoriety.

Benson, the son of an Archbishop of Canterbury, was a famous author in the Edwardian era. He later settled in Rye, the town he depicted in his Tilling novels. This exhibition is organised by the E F Benson Society.

SOAPSUD ISLAND

A performance by the Questors Theatre of Ealing of extracts from their documentary musical based on an oral history project into the lives of the women who worked in the laundry industry in South Acton. This is being put on for The Group for Costume & Textile Staff in Museums, who are holding their Annual Conference at Gunnersbury. 2.00 - 4.00, Saturday 18th September, Friends admission = £1.

THE NORTH LODGE

By the entrance at Popes Lanes is the North Lodge, the new Headquarters for the Park Rangers - both the Security staff who patrol the Park and the Interpretive Rangers who make the Park more enjoyable to its users. This is the place to go with any enquiries, any problems or even any emergencies. It is open every day from 8.00 until ½ hour before closing time. Inside the newly refurbished rooms is a display on the history of the Park and there is always a member of staff there with whom you can discuss matters in the Park and pick up leaflets on future events. This new service is becoming a success, with between 50 and 70 visitors per day.

The Head Interpretive Ranger there is Barry McLorin and the phone for the Information and Security Desk is 081 993 3508.

THISTLES AND GOLF BALLS

A Discontented Friend writes: "The shrub beds in front of the Small Mansion Car Park and in the bed near the Museum now have one of the finest collection of convolvulus and thistle in west London. The shrubs are being used to support this unusual collection and you really should not miss it on your next visit to the Park. Also, have you been hit yet by a golf ball? The long range golf practice courses are all too expensive, so Gunnersbury makes a good local alternative. Dodging the balls adds to your interest as you are out talking a walk with the dog or the kids."