

FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

No. 49

NOVEMBER, 1997



FROM THE EDITOR

WELCOME to the November edition of the Newsletter. We are now seeing beautiful frosts, welcome rain, and multi-coloured leaves in Gunnersbury Park.

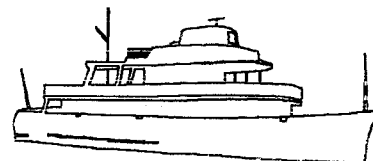
Only six weeks to Christmas - how about visiting the Victorian kitchens and remembering all the busy Yuletide preparations that used to happen there? Before Christmas you can also attend the *Fashion in Hogarth's Century* Exhibition, or discover the boroughs' famous market gardening history, in the *Apples* exhibition.

In this edition we are finding out about the valuable work staff carry out in the park.

As always we welcome any items you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please send them to:

***The Editor, 14 Manor Gardens,
Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU***

I look forward to hearing from you,
Ed



TOMBOLA STALL

Quality items on a par with the above needed for a Tombola - only joking! But please contact Joan on 01 81 560 4262 if you wish to contribute

GUNNERSBURY PARK IN THE 1920S

Look out now for the recent booklet about Gunnersbury, published by the friends a few months ago. It reprints a chapter from *Just Beyond London** by Gordon S Maxwell (1927) with additional illustrations from Roger Nicholson's fine collection of local postcards.

*Copies are available from
Gunnersbury Park Museum and
some Hounslow libraries, (2.50).
Order by post from: Friends of
Gunnersbury Park & Museum, 25
Hartington Road, London W4 3TL.*

ADVERTISING

Should you wish to advertise in the Newsletter, we'd welcome an accompanying donation.

INTERVIEW WITH A PARK PERSON

This Quarter it's
with... NICK
BUTCHER

"There's lots happening in Gunnersbury Park. Alexi Sayle is filming there for a new comedy series, and we have bulb-planting by the public this Sunday," says Nick enthusiastically. He has been the Parks Information Officer since 1989. It was his first job after emerging from Durham College of Land Use and Recreation, with a BTech Diploma. To Nick's relief this was very relevant to his new job, incorporating as it does horticulture, conservation and recreation management. Gunnersbury Park is not the only park Nick looks after, but he is based here. His work covers all 11 large parks plus smaller ones, north of the A315 (Staines Road). Mobile officers also cover the parks.

Nick's typical day begins at 8.00am, walking round the park which takes about an hour. He then liaises with the five park wardens, Noel, Richard, Ahmed, Khurshida and Ray. Nick checks the report books in the North Lodge, 'phoning the necessary people should anything require repairing, for example a broken window. He laughs when I say he should be called 'Nick'll Fix It'.

"It takes a month full-time to organise Gunnersbury Gala," he says. Nick and his team also organise other events which explains his pile of paperwork. There are many mini events in the Orangery, especially during school holidays. Story-telling and puppet workshops are particular favourites with the 200 children who visit each time. The bulb-planting Nick refers to takes place in Gunnersbury Park in mid-November. This popular annual activity has been happening since 1993. Six and a half *thousand* assorted snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils will impressively flower next Spring. Wordsworth would love it.





GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

- **From Tents to Travellers**

A story of the travelling community in Ealing August 1 - January 11, 1998

- **Fashion in Hogarth's Century**

Lace and silk from Gunnersbury's wardrobes will be on show beside an outstanding loaned collection from the Embroiderers' Guild, Hampton Court

September 25, 1997 - September 26, 1998

- **Rothschilds at Gunnersbury**

An exhibition on the life of the Rothschilds using photographs and archive material

On 11 & 18 March 1998 (2.00pm) join a guided tour of the family's first country house

Booking essential

Teachers amongst you may be interested by the Museum's education programme

- **Children**

Come and discover what it was like to go to school in Victorian times!

- **Victorian Kitchens**

The butler or maid will help visitors experience the reality of life below stairs

Booking essential

- **Workshops cover:**

The Romans, The Victorians, World War II, The 50s & 60s, Science Alive

For more info. call Sue McAlpine or Adam Senior (01 81 - 992 2247)

lottery news



Money has been offered for quite specific elements - part of which isn't entirely clear. We're hoping this is just the first element of a much bigger project. The committee work group that helped to put together the lottery bid for the park, has assembled again to support Mike Rowan in implementing this work.

*If you would like more information, please call the Museum
on 01 81 - 992 1612*

JOBS IN THE PARK ***RICHARD, PARK WARDEN***

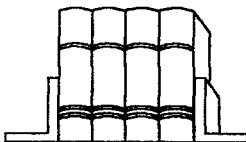
"You name it, we've got it! The Lost Property book at the North Lodge is full. People enjoy a day out in the park so much that they wander off home leaving things behind like mobile phones, handbags, watches ...

"I spend about eight hours a day in Gunnersbury Park: the times of my shifts alter according to daylight hours. The park covers more than 190 acres, and I patrol it with colleagues, on foot or by bicycle, checking council buildings including toilets, lifebuoys with attached ropes at the two lakes, warning signs, and wildlife. We enter any incidents or necessary repairs in log books kept at the North Lodge information centre. The Parks Information Officer contacts the necessary contractor for any repairs. We also use radios and perform office duties

"Health and safety is the main thing: people reside at the Arts Centre, and staff the Museum. There are visitors, *Greenscene*, and students attending Capel Manor. Fifty dogs a day are walked in the park and we try to educate people about the necessity of cleaning up 'dog dirt'

"We advertise events in all the local parks, from children's parties to the Gunnersbury Gala. School sports take place in Gunnersbury park, and at week-ends, adult football and rugby matches.

"We really want people to visit and to enjoy themselves."



NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY ISSUES:

February

May

August

November

Spring Lecture details

Summer Gala details

September Fete details

Christmas event details

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