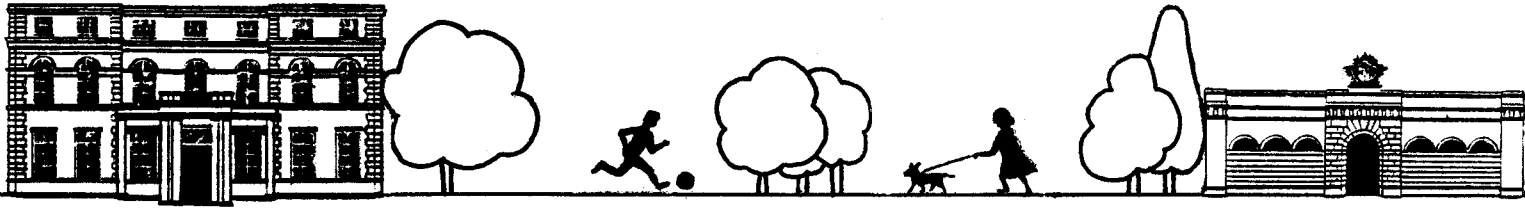


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

No.4
July 1982

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER FETE 24th July

We will be holding our first Summer Fete in the Park on Saturday, 24th July, from 12 o'clock onwards. The huge task of organising this event has been taken on by Eva Swan (993 2692) and Joan Catterall (560 4262). They have laid on a good range of attractions but of course we are still hoping that more Friends will volunteer to run stalls.

At the moment the Friends' stalls will be: Publicity and Membership, Tombola, Books and Plants, Cakes, Sweets, Bric-a-brac, Toys and Balloons, Bran Tub and Popcorn, White Elephant and Nearly New Clothes, Painting Faces and Pony Rides. Please help by donating suitable items for our stalls, or by helping to run a table, or by selling lucky programmes for an hour or two, or by bringing a stall of your own.

The Mayor of Ealing will be visiting the fete at 12.30. We are sponsoring a Children's Fancy Dress Competition and the Mayor of Hounslow will be judging this at 2.30.

You may have seen in the local papers that the Brentford and Chiswick Round Table had to cancel the 'Dinosaur Derby' on Turnham Green this year. This is always a very successful fund-raising event, and great fun as well. We have invited them to join us in the Park and they are going to bring their animals along, together with some stalls and sideshows.

The 4th & 21st Chiswick Scout Group will be playing a large part in the Fete, bringing their games and a tug of war. We have invited many local societies and organisations to join in and the following have agreed to bring their stalls: The Bedford Park House of Arts, the RSPCA, the Residents of Syon Estate, Ealing National Trust, the NSPCC, the CND, the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, the ATC Cadets, St. Dunstan's, St. James', the Brentford & Isleworth Labour Party and the Metropolitan Police. There will be plenty of food, snacks and refreshments available; we are expecting there will be between 45 - 50 stalls altogether.

The officers of Hounslow's Parks Department and the staff in the Park have been particularly helpful with all the arrangements. Don't forget that the Park will be offering all its usual attractions so it will be a good day out for the family. We are all hoping that the weather will be fine, so please come along, spend some money, have a chat, renew your membership and enjoy the events!

Events

The Friends have hired St. James' Church Hall, Gunnersbury (on the north side of Chiswick High Road, near the roundabout) for a Jumble Sale this coming Saturday (17th July). Do you have any Jumble? Particularly Bric-a-brac? Or would you come and help? If so, ring Joan Catterall or Eva Swan.

We are taking a stall at the Brentford Carnival on the same afternoon. There will be a procession of floats, followed by events and stalls on St Pauls

Rec. Ground at 2.00 (just north of Brentford High Road). Come along and see us there.

We will also be at the Strawberry Hill Fair in Twickenham on Sun. 18th July in the afternoon.

Would any of our members like to hold a coffee morning? Joan Catterall, the Membership Secretary, could put you in touch with other Friends in your area.

There will be a meeting of the North Circular Action Group on Thursday July 15th at 8.30 p.m. at St Matthew's Church, North Common Road, Ealing, W.5.

The Community Riding School

As we have reported in previous Newsletters one of our Committee Members, Mrs Anne Stead, is going to run a Community Riding School in the land north of the stables this summer. The mounds of rubble and nettles have been bulldozed and the fencing is being erected. She has gathered a group of ponies and volunteers to instruct the children and if all goes well she should be open within a fortnight. She would be very grateful if any of the Friends would volunteer to help her. There are many things to do, like taking bookings and keeping an eye on the children. It is a non-profit-making undertaking which is bringing life to a disused piece of the park; can anyone help her in this worthwhile cause? Her number is 574 8341; or she is often in the Park during the day.

Swings & Opening Hours

During the Annual General Meeting two matters came up which we wrote to the Director of Arts and Recreation about. It appears that the equipment in the Children's Playground was becoming potentially unsafe and so was removed. In its place the following items are being installed: 1 Tricky Tire Raft, 1 Snyder the Spider Wheel, 1 Saddle Mate and 2 2-bay, 4-seat swings; the first three of these items are suitable for smaller children. Clearly it will be some time before the amount of equipment is back to its former level. On the Park's opening hours, we wrote in support of a letter from Mr. Warner, who had made the points that many people used the Park early in the morning, some as their route to work, and that some of the gates could under the new system still be closed at 8.15 a.m.; also that the fence at Lionel Road is frequently broken by people determined to use the Park. In reply Mr. Connolly said that a) the later opening hours have now brought the Park into line with the rest of the Borough and b) the cost of earlier opening would be to be found by making savings elsewhere. So the position remains that the Park is closed until 7.30 a.m.

Discussions about the Stables

As you will have seen from the last Newsletter we are urging the Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee to prepare a plan for the whole of the Park - landscaping, restoration and use of the buildings - rather than continue with the piecemeal approach. This is especially important now that the Small Mansion is partly vacant. We learnt in late May that a scheme for the Small Mansion was being prepared and that we would be told about it before the next meeting of the GPJC on the 9th July. As the plans were not ready, the GPJC meeting was postponed until September 17th, and we hope to learn of this scheme on July 22nd. A Newsletter will follow as soon as we have the information.

Committee & Constitution

At the AGM on May 9th 50 Friends voted for a new Executive Committee and for the Constitution which is attached. Please note that the Constitution is not the Draft that was circulated with Newsletter No.3. At its next meeting the Executive Committee elected the following officers: James Wisdom (Chairman), 25 Hartington Road, W.4. 994 4231; Ray Gunston (Vice Chairman), 160, Gunnersbury Ave, W.3. 992 4509; Doug Stone (Treasurer), 228, Gunnersbury Ave, W.3. 992 4127; Ken Hawkes (Secretary), 18, Julius Court, Justin Close, Brentford. 568 2717. The Committee Members are: Joan Catterall (Membership Secretary), 39, Lionel Road, Brentford. 560 4262; Joyce Prince, 245, Pope's Lane, W5 4NH. 567 5521; Anne Stead, 36, Raleigh Road, Norwood Green, Southall, UB2 5TW. 574 8341; Eva Swann, 152, Gunnersbury Ave, W.3. 993 2692; John Wilson, 221, Pope's Lane, W.5. 567 8162; John Catterall, 39, Lionel Road, Brentford. 560 4262; Margaret Schofield-Palmer, 37, Gunnersbury Court, Bollo Lane, W.3. 993 2273; Stephen Mark, 227 Pope's Lane, W.5. 567 2494.

1. NAME

The name of the society shall be The Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum (hereinafter called "the Friends").

2. OBJECTS

The objects of the Friends shall be:

- A) for the public benefit to secure the preservation, protection and improvement of Gunnersbury Park and the buildings of historic interest therein,
- B) to advance the education of the public in the history, geography, natural history and architecture of the Park,
- C) to advance the education of the public by promoting, supporting, assisting and improving Gunnersbury Park Museum, and
- D) to provide, or assist in providing, facilities for recreation or other leisure-time occupations in the interests of the social welfare of the public.

In furtherance of the said objects and as ancillary thereto the Friends shall have the following powers:

- i) to promote the improvement of communication between the Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee and the users of the Park and of the Museum, and to make representations to the appropriate authorities on any matter relating to the Park and to the Museum,
- ii) to engage in, support and co-ordinate research, publishing, education, advertising and other work in furtherance of the above objects,
- iii) to organise walks, lectures, exhibitions and meetings,
- iv) to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions from any person or persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation and otherwise, provided that the Friends shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its primary object,
- v) to acquire, by purchase, gift or otherwise, property whether or not subject to any special trust,
- vi) to sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or funds of the Friends as shall be necessary,
- vii) to borrow or raise money for the objects of the Friends on such terms and on such security as the Executive Committee shall think fit, but so that the liability of individual members of the Friends shall in no case extend beyond the amount of their respective annual subscriptions,
- viii) to donate to the Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee, or such other body as may subsequently become responsible for the Park and Museum such items and things as the Executive Committee after due consultation with the Gunnersbury Park Joint Committee shall from time to time think fit, and
- ix) to do all such other things as are necessary for the attainment of the said objects.

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall be open to all who are interested in actively furthering the objects of the Friends. No member shall have the power to vote at any meeting of the Friends if his or her subscription is in arrears at the time. Corporate members shall be such societies, associations, educational institutions or businesses as are interested in actively furthering the objects of the Friends. A corporate member shall appoint a representative to vote on its behalf at all meetings' but before such a representative exercises his or her right to vote the corporate member shall give particulars in writing to the Honorary Secretary of the Friends. The subscriptions of a member joining the Friends in the three months preceding 31st March in any year shall be regarded as covering membership for the Friends' year commencing on 1st April following the date of joining the Friends.

4. SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscription shall be such sum as the Annual General Meeting shall determine, and it shall be payable on or before the 1st April each year. Membership shall lapse if the subscription is unpaid three months after it is due.

5. MEETINGS

An Annual General Meeting shall be held in or about April of each year to receive the Executive Committee's report and audited accounts and to elect the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall decide when ordinary meetings of the Friends shall be held.

Special General Meetings of the Friends shall be held at the written request of 15 or more members whose subscriptions are fully paid up.

Fifteen members personally present shall constitute a quorum for a meeting of the Friends.

The Executive Committee shall give at least seven days' notice to members of all meetings of the Friends.

6. THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the management and administration of the Friends.

Nominations for the election of the Executive Committee shall be made in writing to the Honorary Secretary prior to the Annual General Meeting. Such nominations shall be supported by a seconder and the consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained. Nominees for election shall declare at the Annual General Meeting at which their election is to be considered any financial or professional interest known or likely to be of concern to the Friends. The members of the Executive Committee shall relinquish their office every year and shall be eligible for re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

The Officers of the Friends shall be a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer, who shall all be elected from among the members of the Executive Committee by the Executive Committee at their first meeting after the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected. A President and Vice-Presidents may also be elected at a General Meeting of the Friends for periods to be decided at such a meeting.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers and not less than two and not more than eight others. If the nominations exceed the number of vacancies, a ballot shall take place in such manner as shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to co-opt additional members as deemed necessary, but so that the number of Executive Committee members including co-opted members shall not exceed 12.

The President and Vice-Presidents may attend any meeting of the Executive Committee but shall not vote at any such meeting. In the event of an equality of the votes cast, the Chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

The Executive Committee shall meet not less than six times per year at intervals of not more than two months and the Honorary Secretary shall give all members not less than seven days' notice of each meeting. The quorum shall, as near as may be, comprise one half of the members of the Executive Committee.

7. SUB-COMMITTEES

The Executive Committee may constitute such sub-committees from time to time as shall be considered necessary for such purposes as shall be thought fit. The Chairman and Secretary of each sub-committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and all actions and proceedings of each sub-committee shall be reported to and be confirmed by the Executive Committee as soon as possible. Members of the Executive Committee may be members of any sub-committee and membership of a sub-committee shall be no bar to appointment to membership of the Executive Committee. Sub-committees shall be subordinate to and may be regulated or dissolved by the Executive Committee.

8. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

It shall be the duty of every Officer or member of the Executive Committee or sub-committee who is in any way directly or indirectly interested financially or professionally in any item discussed at any committee meeting at which he or she is present to declare such interest and he or she shall not discuss such item (except by invitation of the Chairman) or vote thereon.

9. EXPENSES OF ADMINISTRATION AND APPLICATION OF FUNDS

The Executive Committee shall, out of the funds of the Friends, pay all proper expenses of administration and management of the Friends. After the payment of such expenses and the setting aside to reserve of such sums as may be deemed expedient, the remaining funds of the Friends shall be applied by the Executive Committee in furtherance of the objects of the Friends.

10. INVESTMENT

All monies at any time belonging to the Friends and not required for immediate application for its objects shall be invested by the Executive Committee in or upon such investments, securities or property as it may think fit, subject nevertheless to such authority, approval or consent by the Charity Commissioners as may for the time being be required by law or by the special trusts affecting any property in the hands of the Executive Committee.

11. TRUSTEES

Any freehold or leasehold property acquired by the Friends shall, and if the Executive Committee so directs any other property belonging to the Friends may, be vested in trustees who shall deal with such property as the Executive Committee may from time to time direct. Any trustees shall be at least three in number or a trust corporation. The power of appointment of trustees shall be vested in the Executive Committee. A trustee need not be a member of the Friends.

The Honorary Secretary shall from time to time notify the trustees in writing of any amendment hereto and the trustees shall not be bound by any such amendments in their duties as trustees unless such notice has been given. The Friends shall be bound to indemnify the trustees in their duties as trustees (including the proper charge of a trustee being a trust corporation) and liability under such indemnity shall be a proper administrative expense.

12. AMENDMENTS

Amendment to the constitution shall be made only at the Annual General Meeting or at Special General Meetings of the members and notices of proposed changes shall be received in writing not less than 14 clear days before the Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting. No amendment shall be made to the objects clause, dissolution clause or this clause until the approval in writing of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction shall have been obtained; and no alterations shall be made which will have the effect of causing the Friends to cease to be a charity at law.

13. NOTICES

Any notice required to be given by these rules shall be deemed to be duly given if left at or sent by prepaid post addressed to the address of that member last notified to the Friends.

14. DISSOLUTION

The Friends may be dissolved by a two thirds majority of members voting at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting of the Friends confirmed by a simple majority of members voting at a further Special General Meeting held not less than 14 days after the previous Meeting. If a motion for the dissolution of the Friends is to be proposed at an Annual General Meeting or Special General Meeting this motion shall be referred to specifically when notice of the Meeting is given.

In the event of the dissolution of the Friends the available funds of the Friends shall be transferred to such one or more charitable institutions having objects similar or reasonably similar to those hereinbefore declared as shall be chosen by the Executive Committee and approved by the Meeting of the Friends at which the decision to dissolve the Friends is confirmed. On dissolution the minute books and other records of the Friends shall be deposited with the Civic Trust.