

NEWSLETTER

No. 50

FEBRUARY, 1998



FROM THE EDITOR

Spring is here at last! Well ... The days are getting longer, even if the weather is a bit varied. Soon daffodils and crocuses will be blooming early in Gunnersbury Park if my garden is anything to go by.

Lots of interesting items in this new 1998 newsletter: the latest update on the lottery from James Wisdom, info. from Capel Manor, and of course all the latest events happening at the Museum and Park.

For example, we have donated £250 on your behalf to the Victorian Kitchens, so when you visit later this year look out for the additional items which add authenticity. These include artificial fruit and vegetables.

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

ADVERTISING



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

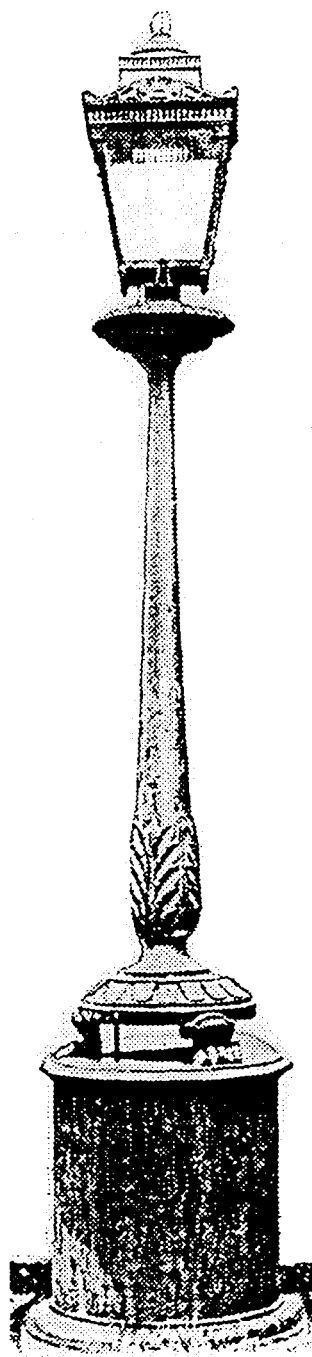
LAMP STANDARDS

The lamp standards along the main drive and in front of the two mansions were removed as part of the first phase of the National Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Park.

They will begin to be replaced during March, and are scheduled to be fully in place by this summer.

The work in progress on the lamps includes: careful removal, cleaning, copying and reassembly of the mixture of decorative Victorian and Edwardian elements from the combined remains of the originals.

Once completed it will be possible for the lamps to be copied, so that the globe lights on the other side of the drive can be removed and replaced with authentic matching replicas.





GUNNERSBURY PARK AND MUSEUM EVENTS

- **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
- **Gunnersbury Kitchen Capers**
Come along and see the servants spring-cleaning
On 5 April (1.00pm onwards)
- **Treasure Exhibition**
This will open shortly. Do you have a favourite piece you like to see when you visit the Museum? If so drop Sue McAlpine a note at the Museum and you may find it on display

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)

OTHER HAPPENINGS AT GUNNERSBURY ...

PRINCESS AMELIA'S BATH HOUSE

Excitingly, an archaeological dig is commencing sometime in March. The excavation is not only to look at what is below the ground, but also at brickwork and the type of materials used to build the bath house. This is not just of historical interest, it will help with the correct restoration of the building when it begins.

MORE ON THE DIGGING THEME...

The Italian Gardens to the rear and side of the Temple and Round Pond are due for some work this Spring. The North Lodge Information Centre has further details on how funding from the Lottery Fund has given the go-ahead for background work to commence on the Park.

PLAY TIME

Also in March, work will begin on the Orchard Playground. Unfortunately this means the play area will have to be closed for approximately eight weeks. But there will be a splendid playground as a result, ready for the summer. Hooray!

FILMING

The Victorian Kitchens and the Temple were on television at Christmas in a film called *The Canterville Ghost*. Fame!

SPRING IS SPRUNG ...

The Park will shortly be sporting splashes of colourful yellow daffodils, and crocuses. Next year, money permitting, more bulbs will be planted, near Popes Lane. We hope to have a Daffodil walk by the Millennium.

This year, when you decide to thin your bluebells, how about taking them to Gunnersbury Park? You could plant them in the wooded areas outside the Potomac Lake area, or by the cemetery wall.

THE CONSERVATORY

The Small Conservatory is now due for re-painting and refurbishment. When this work is completed, the area will provide a valuable dual service space for the Museum. Acting as a conservatory, and - due to the success of the Museum's educational department and lack of space within the Museum - also as an eating area during the months when children are on winter educational visits. The Friends are donating benches.

CAPEL MANOR at GUNNERSBURY PARK - FLORISTRY AND HORTICULTURAL COURSES

RHS SUCCESS

12 students gained a distinction in the RHS General Certificate held at Gunnersbury during the past year.

Easter 1998 sees the start of the next RHS General Certificate and the one day per week course which runs through to March 1999 covers:

- ✦ Plant Botany
- ✦ Ornamental Gardening
- ✦ Pests and Diseases
- ✦ Fruit and Vegetables
- ✦ Greenhouse Growing
- ✦ Lawns
- ✦ Soils
- ✦ Fertilisers
- ✦ Trees, Shrubs and Plant Propagation.

NEW FOR 1998

The Glass House Training Unit will be fully equipped for 1998. Purpose-built and measuring 16.5 metres by 4.5 metres, it has been constructed in American Cedar based on a classic vinery design

A new reading room with study area has just been completed.

CARNIVAL CAPERS

Students and staff helped decorate the Capel Manor mini bus for the Whitton Carnival sponsored by the Whitton Business Association.



The floristry department provided 4 specially prepared bouquets and the horticultural team provided garden tools and health & safety equipment.

OPEN EVENING DATES...

Make a note for your diary... Gunnersbury Park will be holding Open Evenings and Advice Sessions on all the courses available at the centre. They are on Tuesdays - November 18th, March 10th, May 19th and July 21st, between 5.00pm and 7.30pm.



Spring into Spring
WITH THE 10 WEEK
1 DAY PER WEEK
PRACTICAL
gardening
COURSE STARTING MARCH '98

The totally practically based course is programmed to suit all keen Gardeners and Professionals covering a range of popular topics from propagating and preparing seed beds to maintaining established herbaceous mixed borders. The course also covers pruning, cultivation of borders, pest/disease control, container gardening, lawn maintenance and visits to Kew Gardens and Saville Gardens.

The complete course costs just £172 (and includes the visits). Individual Sessions cost £17.80.

Reservations on this popular course go very quickly - please phone our Courses Office today.

☎ 0181 366 4442

lottery news

from James Wisdom

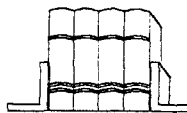


Those of you who have been Friends for many years will know that at Gunnersbury when some things go well you can be sure other things are going very badly. The main buildings at risk when we started were the Stables, the bathhouse and the Orangery - the East Lodge was very far gone and no-one seemed too bothered about the Potomac Tower. Since then the condition of the two mansions has deteriorated, and they will cost a fortune to put right.

Instead of devising one integrated bid for both Park and Museum the Joint Committee has submitted one bid for the Park (in which the restoration of the Stables was a significant feature) and the Museum staff are still preparing their separate bid. The Park bid was partially successful and work is now starting - for example, by the summer we should have a really fine children's playground. The Stables part of the bid was not successful, but we have been invited to re-apply with a cheaper scheme and this is being prepared. There will be further phases of bidding for Park improvements and if we are successful then we (Ealing, Hounslow, English Heritage, Friends and others) will have to find the balance of the funds for each phase.

The Museum bid has been prepared in a much less open way and so it is harder to tell you what is now being planned. It has in the past been a grandiose scheme involving restoration of the Mansions, new buildings, café and shop, "state rooms" for hire, a paid-for Victorian Kitchens attraction, the education service in the Small Mansion and more staff to manage it all. To help pay for this the Museum staff wanted to impose museum charges - a move rejected by the Joint Committee, but later approved by Ealing's Labour Group. At this point Councillors Dunckley and Delaney, two of the Museum's greatest supporters, resigned from the committee in protest.

Since then the Heritage Lottery people have told the Museum staff that there is little point in submitting so large a bid, so we are expecting a re-worked proposal, perhaps around the £2m mark, to go in by March 31st.



NEWSLETTER QUARTERLY ISSUES:

February	Spring Lecture details
May	Summer Gala details
August	September Fete details
November	Christmas event details

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