

# NEWSLETTER

No. 58

FEBRUARY 2000



## FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends

Welcome to a new Millennium of park and museum enjoyment! With this in mind, the Museum has organised a Friends event to which you are all invited. This will take place on Tuesday April 11 from 6.30-8.30pm at the Museum.

Other enjoyable events also organised by the Museum can be seen inside the Newsletter.

Additionally you will find informative interviews with Marina Pacheco, who has been appointed Information Officer for Parks in Hounslow, and Helen Sayers from the Landscape Design Group.

It was decided recently to rejoin the British Association of Friends of Museums - maybe we will be able to meet up with other Museum volunteers.

Please don't throw away any extra snowdrops you may have - we want them to brighten the woods near the cemetery. More details inside ...

Regards,  
Ed.

If you would like further details concerning anything in the Newsletter, please send correspondence to: 14 Manor Gardens  
Gunnersbury Avenue, W3 8JU

It was with deep sadness that the Friends learned of the death of Mr Fred Sherley. He was a valued Committee member and volunteer. Fred and his wife Doris used to look after the Park Conservatory plants, of which there were more than 100.

## OVERWHELMED WITH SNOWDROPS?



Please don't throw your snowdrops away when splitting them, as you can give them to Joan Catterall or deliver them to the North Lodge. Arrangements will then be made to plant them in Gunnersbury Park at Love Lane. This will brighten the area in the woods near the cemetery, and the ground behind Potomac Lake. We hope this arrangement will prove to be as popular as that of bluebell planting in the Park.

## CAUTION!

There is now a telescopic bollard by the main gate at the top of the Park drive. This is to prevent 'public' motorists entering through that entrance. The East Lodge is being cleaned up and the exit rebuilt so that the road curves. Drivers will be able to exit by this route.





## INTERVIEW WITH A PARK PERSON... this week with MARINA PACHECO

Marina Pacheco has been the Parks Information Officer for the whole of Hounslow since the beginning of December 1999. A quiet environmentalist, she usually travels from her home in Deptford to west London by public transport. You may remember Marina in her previous post as Trainer of the New Deal workers at Gunnersbury Park, where she was employed for more than a year.

As Parks Information Officer, she has recently been working on the re-opening of Hounslow Urban Farm, and now the Bathhouse at Gunnersbury. There have been discussions about restoring the Japanese Gardens, and possibly the stable block. Marina will be updating the publicity brochures for Gunnersbury later this year, as well as working on a new scheme of free *Walks & Talks* through the Park.

It has been noticed that the attractive Park information panels installed last year may be fading. If this turns out to be the case, these will be replaced, and possibly moved to shadier locations. It's pleasant to realise that there is so much sunshine at Gunnersbury.



## PRINCESS AMELIA'S BATHHOUSE

The Bathhouse will be restored by the summer. The Friends have been asked if they can suggest a suitable day tenant for the one room. An artist has been suggested – do you have any ideas?





## **GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM EVENTS**

*For more information also e-mail: [gp-museum@cip.org.uk](mailto:gp-museum@cip.org.uk)*

### **❑ ESPECIALLY FOR THE FRIENDS ...**

Vanda Foster and Sue McAlpine will take visitors through two of the Museum's current exhibitions and explain the background and what occurs behind the scenes to stage an exhibition. Refreshments and free admission.

*April 11, 6.30-8.30. Please 'phone to book a place and to confirm entry arrangements into the Park. The main drive should be accessible by then.*

### **❑ A WALK DOWN THE CENTURY**

Welcome to the Museum's free Millennium Exhibition, in which each decade of the twentieth century is set out with objects and images which will evoke precious memories. From early cameras and stirrup pumps to mobile 'phones and the solar eclipse – prepare to be fascinated. *(Open each afternoon)*

### **❑ LIFE IN THE LANE**

Portraits and Memories from Acton Lane by Gill Mathias

This is a Millennium history project and photographic exhibition, showing portraits of Audrey the Lollipop Lady, Raj the Pharmacist and Dave the Printer, amongst others, from the community of Acton Lane. *(For further information pl. contact Caroline Gardner or Vanda Foster: 0181 992 1612)*

### **❑ FOR CHILDREN:**

#### **Gunnersbury Park Museum Victorian Kitchens**

*Museum open 1-6pm*

#### **CHILDREN'S HALF-TERM WORKSHOPS at the Museum**

##### **Shadow shows and Phantasmagoria!**

Discover how people entertained themselves before the advent of television with this chance to make a Shadow Show, and to act without speaking.

**BOOKING ESSENTIAL** - All equipment is provided, please bring packed lunch and wear comfortable, plain, dark clothing.

*(22-24 February, 10am-4pm, ages 8-12 years, £35 for three days. Maximum of 20 children, venue wheelchair accessible)*

#### **EASTER HOLS**

Perform *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe ...*

*Teachers also may be interested by the Museum's education programme and many Workshops.*

*For more info. call Sue McAlpine or Adam Senior on 0181- 992 2247*

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**HELEN SAYERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT for**  
**THE LANDSCAPE DESIGN GROUP of**  
**Community Initiative Partnerships at Hounslow**  
**- speaking regarding her work in Gunnersbury Park**

*Before coming to Gunnersbury, Helen Sayers previously worked for a private practice in Glasgow for three years. She is 30*

My role is to work on major land projects in the park. There are three large ones: the first is the Tree Planting Project in the southern area of Gunnersbury Park. We are aiming to renew the existing tree cover. We have planted 164 trees, mostly Sweet Chestnuts, Oaks, and some Pines. We have also carried out some tree felling. A number of the trees were dead and dying, these were a mixture of Elms and, to a less extent, Plane trees. Most of the newly planted trees will reach maturity in 30 or 40 years time, however the Alders will grow faster.

The second Project is regarding the Temple Gardens, around the Round Pond. This is still on the drawing board, but basically it is a series of small-scale works to try and restore some of the older character of the pond area.

Project Three is concerned with the Italian Gardens behind the Temple, where Poets Corner can be found. The Gardens used to be very ornate, with a pool and trellis work, and very elaborate planting. The restoration project will perhaps attempt to reinstate something similar, but we have not quite decided.

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**NEWSLETTER**  
**QUARTERLY ISSUES:**

**February**  
**- Spring Lecture details**

**May**  
**- Summer Gala details**

**August**  
**- September Fete details**

**December**  
**- Christmas event details**