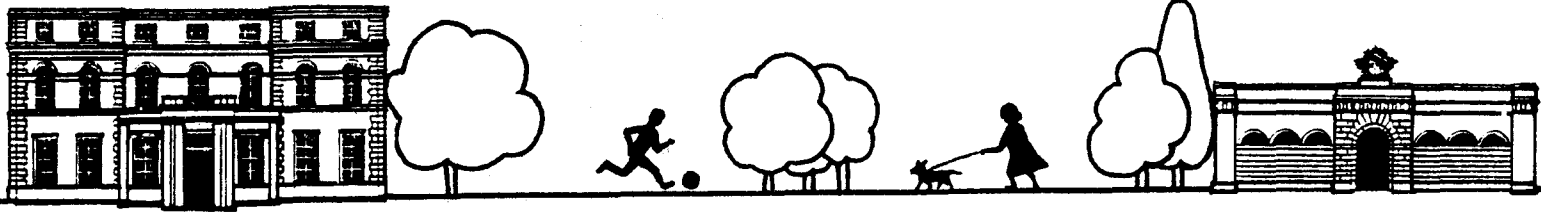


FRIENDS of GUNNERSBURY PARK & MUSEUM

No. 8
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NEWSLETTER



2nd SUMMER FETE 23rd JULY

This year we are holding our Fete on Saturday July 23rd from 12.30 until 6.00. The site is on the open field by the car park next to the Nurseries (entrance from Pope's Lane). We will be having a central arena for games (sack races, egg and spoon etc) surrounded by stalls. The Mayors of both Ealing and Hounslow have accepted our invitations, and we will have the Hounslow Juvenile Pipe Band, Punch and Judy shows, the 'Nationwide' Bouncing Castle, sideshows, games, raffles and stalls selling all sorts of fete-y things.

It is not too late to volunteer to help! Phone Joan Catterall (560 4262) if you can spend an hour or two behind a table or if you have any goods (books, toys, bric-a-brac etc) you could donate. If it is a fine day, come along and renew your membership!

After last year's Fete we asked the Park Superintendent, John Stockdale, if there was anything the Park really needed which it couldn't obtain by the normal processes. Strangely, there was no place in the Park where visitors could discover the wide range of sports, games, facilities and amenities they could enjoy. So we purchased 3 good quality (and vandalproof) noticeboards, which have now been fixed beside the boat-hire hut by the Round Pond. Inside one is a comprehensive map of the Park, supplied by the designer in the Borough Architect's Department. Apart from the Museum's Donations Box this is our first modest contribution to the improvement of the Park - let us hope that the success of this year's Fete will enable us to do more in the future.

Yet another reason for coming to the Fete is that this will be the last opportunity this year to visit the Nurseries in the Park. There have been two open weekends this summer, and the experiment has been a tremendous success. You can buy plants from a wide range of surplus stock and you can obtain advice from experts. They will be open Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July, from 10 until 4.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Approximately 50 Friends attended the Annual General Meeting in the Temple on 24th April. The various Annual Reports submitted with Newsletter 7 were accepted and the meeting went on to consider the GPJC's "Working Party Report". In April of 1982 we had urged the GPJC to use the GLC's Historic Buildings Division to survey and report on the future of the Park. This would have cost some thousands of pounds so the GPJC asked its own officers to do the same thing. The result, one year later, was the Working Party Report reprinted in Newsletter 7.

The AGM agreed that the Report was an inadequate piece of work which in the main repeated earlier and better reports. It was clearly committed to the scheme for conversion of the Stables to offices. It did take one step forward by considering (in an unsatisfactory way) the use of the Small Mansion as a hotel/restaurant. The meeting agreed that we could pursue this idea with the GPJC. There was little support for the idea of using the Small Mansion as an Exhibition Centre, and the meeting was surprised to learn that this was the personal fancy of Hounslow's Chief Executive, Roger Jefferies, who had wasted many hours of the officers' time in establishing whether such an idea was feasible. The meeting felt that, waiting for this Working Party Report had been a waste of a whole year.

The meeting then went on to consider the Architect-Developer Competition. If we agreed to this idea it may involve the Park in more fundamental and radical changes than we have considered up to now, but as the Working Party Report is so inadequate, the councillors have little alternative but to go along with the Competition. The meeting agreed that we should meet the GPJC and discuss this competition and then report back to the members when the outlines of the scheme become clearer.

We then went on to hold an election, as 13 candidates stood for the 12-person committee. One of last year's committee members, John Wilson, had stood down through shortage of time; we were very grateful to him for his help last year, especially in his handling of the electricity for the Fete. When the new committee met, it elected the following people as officers: James Wisdom (Chairman), Ray Gunston (Vice Chairman), Ken Hawkes (Secretary) and Joyce Prince (Treasurer). Joan Catterall was elected Membership Secretary, Eva Swann was elected Chairman of the Fund Raising Sub-Committee, and the rest of the Committee consists of: John Catterall, Roger Nicholson, Anne Stead, Margaret Schofield-Palmer and Doug Stone.

Riding

Following the success of Anne Stead's Riding School last summer the GPJC invited applications for a similar scheme this year.

The successful applicants are Michael Turner, Alan Job and Kenneth Edwards. At present they run the Cwmfforest Riding Centre in the Black Mountains (the Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys) where they offer courses of instruction coupled with holiday accommodation. They are preparing various parts of the Stable Blocks for their ponies and work is progressing rapidly. They hope to be open within a week or two after all the formalities have been completed. If the venture is a success they have the option of renewal. They will be installing a telephone for direct bookings - if British Telecom can move fast enough - and then they will announce the number in advertisements in the local papers, so keep your eyes peeled!

The Kitchens

As we are providing volunteers to open the Kitchens we have decided to open on the last weekend of the summer months. On the June weekend a combination of publicity in the local papers and on LBC Radio and fine weather brought 400 visitors to see the rooms, now looking better than ever with the beginnings of the displays in place - butter coolers, knife cleaners and huge pots and pans. Please don't miss your chance to see into the workings of a Victorian household. We open them again on 30 and 31 July, 27 and 28 August and 24 and 25 September, from 2 till 6, admission free.

The Museum

The current temporary exhibition at the Museum is "IT CAME FROM THE STORES" - a chance to see some of the items from the Museum's extensive collection. The case in the Entrance Hall has been filled with dolls, and the rest of the exhibits are in the Board Room. This exhibition ends on 29th August.

From the 10th September to 16th October the WEST LONDON CRAFTSMEN will be holding their 4th Annual Exhibition, with demonstrations in the Temple on Sunday afternoons.

Please don't forget to send in your Membership Renewal. Every member should have a copy of the Constitution (it was printed in Newsletter 4). If we have not sent you one, please make a note on the membership renewal form.