

Why is Gunnersbury So Important?

Today is one of those glorious summer days that help the park look at its best. It feels busy and well used. Family groups are visiting the playground or sitting on the grass, office workers have taken the opportunity to stroll, sunbathe and picnic under the trees, a school party is playing on the lawns after their visit to the museum, and some regular visitors are meeting friends - and their dogs - at the cafe.

Every year, thousands of people visit Gunnersbury to soak up the special atmosphere. English Heritage, the Government's adviser on the historic environment, has registered Gunnersbury as Grade 2 meaning it is in the top 30% of registered parks in the country. There are also 21 registered buildings and structures on the site, some of them within the top 10% of the register. For many, it is the additional opportunities to play sport, to visit the play facilities, or attend an event that is their main reason for a visit. For others, it is an essential green space for regular exercise, walking the dog, and enjoying the air, parkland, woodland and open spaces.

However, closer inspection reveals that although Gunnersbury still accommodates a range of functions and activities, they have been decreasing over the years, and the quality of horticulture and building maintenance has suffered as pressure on council budgets diverts funds away from park maintenance. English Heritage has named Gunnersbury within the top 12 'at risk' properties in England due to the large amount of investment needed to stabilise and repair the important buildings and restore the park.

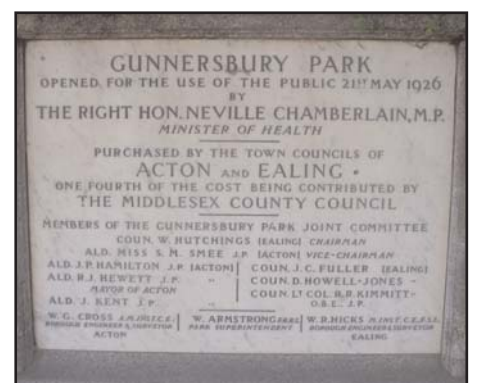
How can you help?

We have to make a real change in the way the park is managed to reverse this trend. As options for the development and regeneration of Gunnersbury are explored, we hope that you can help us identify the value of sport, wildlife, heritage and community use in the park, and what makes it a special place for you.

We want to encourage the formation of a 'stakeholders group' with a regular input into the management of the Park. This group, composed of individuals or organisations with an interest in Gunnersbury Park, will be a forum for public discussion and debate, and be charged with offering advice and support to the Park management.

The first meeting for anybody who wants to be involved is arranged for Wednesday 30 July in the Terrace room of the small mansion at 7.30pm.

**WHY IS GUNNERSBURY
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OTHER NEWS**

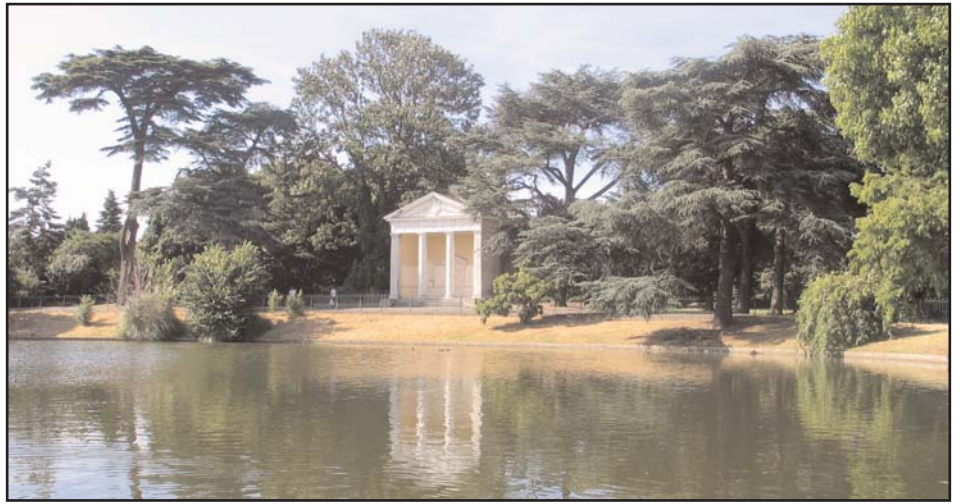


**Gunnersbury park has
been in public ownership
since 1926.
We are determined
to improve this
wonderful place.**

Recent Projects

The Gunnersbury Park Regeneration Board, formed last year to replace the Joint Committee, has been busy considering the best way to protect the Park for future generations.

The first step was to commission a Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) to help identify and protect the heritage of Gunnersbury Park and suggest some options for the future management of the park. This plan is available to view on the website www.hounslow.gov.uk/gunnersbury or by appointment at the Museum.



As well as working on the CMP, the board continues to work with existing partners to expand what Gunnersbury has to offer. Almost 5,000 people enjoyed a free sporting spectacular on June 22 organised by Brentford FC Community Sports Trust (BFCCST) in partnership with Access Sport and Hounslow and Ealing Councils. Visitors were given the chance to take part in a range of sports from kayaking to karate. We hope 'Sports Jam' will highlight the potential for Gunnersbury to become a thriving community sports and cultural hub. BFCCST have completed an initial feasibility study for the development of sports facilities in the park and we hope to continue to work together on this project.

OTHER NEWS

Moth Warning

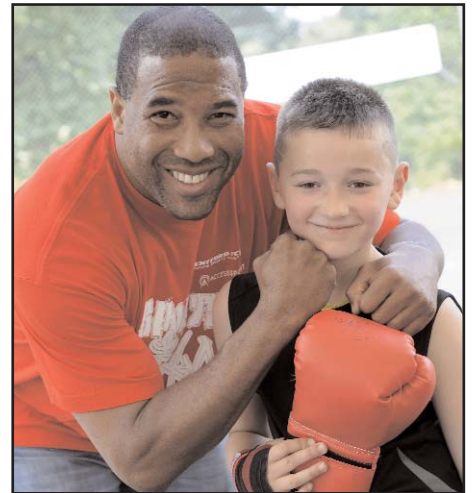
The Caterpillar of the Oak Processionary Moth has hairs containing a toxin which may cause a very itchy skin rash, itchy eyes, or breathing problems. Its name comes from the caterpillar's habit of moving about in oak trees, or along the ground, in nose to tail processions. In July and August, caterpillars are likely to be in communal nests made of white silk webbing the size of a tennis ball. It is important that people do not try to deal with the caterpillars or nests themselves - even old nests can be packed with the caterpillars hairs. If you suspect you have found a nest; please phone Hounslow Council on 020 8583 5555.

Special Thanks

The Friends of Gunnersbury Park and Museum have kindly helped in the distribution of this newsletter. If you would like to receive further newsletters, please contact us on 0208 992 1612 or email richard.gill@hounslow.gov.uk, please indicate whether you would like to receive it by email, or by post.

Together we can make Gunnersbury a sustainable, high quality park with varied uses, which serve the local community and the region whilst respecting, enhancing and interpreting its historic framework and fabric.

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OPEN HOUSE
On Saturday 20 September
there will be regular tours of the
large mansion (ground floor only)
from 11.30am to 4.30pm.
The temple by the round pond
will also be open and we hope
to arrange to open the Potomac
boathouse (book at house)

LONDON MELA
Sunday 10 August, noon-8pm.
Free cultural festival featuring
international Asian artists and
the tastiest array of South Asian
Food found at any UK festival.



**London Borough
of Hounslow**



Ealing