HI, WELCOME!

Thanks for downloading this Family Trail, designed to show you around some of the amazing objects and stories in Gunnersbury Park Museum.

This step-free trail works best on a mobile phone screen, and all you need is a sense of adventure!

Your trail starts just next door to the Museum’s reception, in the Skylight Gallery.
This room is a bit like the contents page of a book, or the trailer for a film. The various objects provide a hint of what’s to come on our trail...

**CAN YOU SPOT...?**

- An unusual star of a movie?
- The great grandparent of a printer?
- An ostrich that helps keep you cool?

**READY TO MOVE ON TO THE PEOPLE & PLACE GALLERY?**

Go through the door in the corner, next to the doll’s house.
PEOPLE & PLACE

There are so many stories from amazing people who have called Ealing or Hounslow their home over thousands of years. This room shares just a few, and some remarkable objects they used too.

FROM THE QUEEN...

Can you find the oldest coins in this room? (They’re well over 400 years old!)

How do they compare to the coins we use today?

...TO QUEEN

Queen were one of the biggest bands of all time, and their lead singer - Freddie Mercury - lived just down the road from here in Feltham.

Challenge #1: First to find Feltham on the giant map wins. Where is it compared to Gunnersbury Park?

Challenge #2: Sing a Queen song together

We don’t want to stop you now, but will your family be the champions?

Not ready to rock us? Ah well, another one bites the dust.
Next stop: The Leisure Gallery

But before we go...
Who can find the oldest object in this room, the People & Place Gallery?
You've got 60 seconds - go!

Feeling energised?
Spot the Lucozade sign on your way (it should be big enough - it was seen by millions of cars on the M4 motorway in Brentford)

Ground floor
1. As you leave the People & Place Gallery, turn right and go up the ramp in the Skylight Gallery.
2. Take the stairs or the lift to the first floor.

First floor
3. At the top of the stairs, head straight across the Skylight Balcony, walk around the other, grander staircase and go into the Leisure Gallery
Leisure

Ealing is a bit like Britain's Hollywood, with a long history of hit TV and movies being filmed here.

Ealing Studios is the oldest film studio in the world and some of the most famous films and television shows - both modern and old - were shot there.

Do you recognise any of the titles below?

- The Theory of Everything
- Doctor Who
- The Royle Family
- The Lavender Hill Mob
- The Titfield Thunderbolt
- Notting Hill
- Shaun of the Dead
- Notting Hill
- The Lavender Hill Mob
- Downton Abbey

Watch out, there's an alien robot about...

If you were the Doctor, which object in this room would you be most suspicious of and why?

(This way into the leisure gallery)

(IF IT’S THE VOC MASK, DID YOU KNOW ITS DESIGNER, ELIZABETH WALLER, LIVED JUST DOWN THE ROAD IN EALING?)
THAT’S A WRAP!
When you’re done filming, head back to the Skylight Balcony and into the Home Gallery.

STUNT DOUBLE
Pick up the phone and press ‘Cinema, TV & Radio’ to hear from a stunt hobbit and the man who actually flew as Superman.

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!
Your family challenge: Act out a film scene using one of the scripts on the Director’s chair.

Appoint a different role to each family member - some can be actors, but you’ll need a director, camera person and costume designer too.

THAT’S A WRAP!
When you’re done filming, head back to the Skylight Balcony and into the Home Gallery.
So much of what we do today is the same as people have been doing for years and years, albeit looking a bit different...

Welcome to the 1950s - you’ve just whirled your way back in time about 70 years to someone’s living room.

What do you think of it? How does it compare to your home today? And what does the weird brown box do?!

AND EVEN LONGER AGO...

Can you find the photograph of a schoolroom taken in 1925 (that’s over 34,000 days ago).

DON’T FORGET TO GO RUMMAGING IN THE DRAWERS, TOO.

Found it?
Share with each other how the 1925 classroom compares with yours (whenever that might have been!)
To get to the Fashion Gallery
...follow the directions below

1. Head out of the Home Gallery and turn right, back towards the stairs and lift we came up earlier.

2. Again, take either the stairs or the lift up to the second floor.

3. At the top of the stairs, turn left and take the first door into the Fashion Gallery.

4. Fashion Gallery
We’ve always worn clothes, but nothing changes faster than fashion.

**CHALLENGE!**
Find the oldest piece of clothing in the room. What year is it from?

THE OLD STUFF ALWAYS GETS FORGOTTEN ABOUT IN A DRAWER SOMEWHERE!

**WHICH LOOK SUITS YOU?**
There’s a whole range of styles of clothes waiting for you to try on.

Which styles of clothes suit you best?
Which are the most comfortable to wear?

As you look at yourself in the mirror, use the little pictures on one side to help you work out which era you’d feel most at home.

TIRED OUT FROM THE CATWALK? When you’ve hit peak fashion, head across the hall into the Industry Gallery.
Industry

In this room you can find out about the things local people have made and done to earn a living, including a few which might surprise you...

**BLOCK PRINTING**

Remember the huge printer from the beginning of this trail? You can have a go at printing the same way, pushing patterned blocks against the paper.

This was how old wallpaper and fabrics could have repeating patterns, and how a factory could produce lots of the same design.

Try lining up and repeating the pattern at the block printing station. Would you have been accurate enough to get the job?

**SOAPSUD ISLAND**

South Acton used to have so many laundries that it got the nickname Soapsud Island.

Huge machines helped an army of workers to clean the dirty sheets and clothes from central London.

Listen to the phone in the corner and press ‘Laundries’ to hear Ethel describe what it was like.
Fill in the blanks with objects you can find in this gallery, all of which were made in factories nearby:

Woah, what’s that?! I was just exploring the museum when this great bushy beard suddenly appeared on my face. I’d better shave it off with a __________.

Walking around Gunnersbury is soooo slow though. I’d go much faster if only I had a __________. Aha, you found one! Thanks :)

Now, to charge up on some energy with a quick swig of __________ and I’ll be off. Round and round my legs go, faster and faster and faster... and.... the pedals are smoking! Quick, grab the __________.

Just to make sure I’m fully extinguished, I’d best go for a quick dip. I’m sure there’s a __________ here, although I’ve never heard of any being made out of wool before!

GOT A GOOD STORY? FILM AND SHARE IT WITH US USING #GPMUSEUM
To get to the Toys & Games
...follow the directions below

SECOND FLOOR

1. Leave the Industry Gallery, turn left and head back down the stairs all the way to the Ground Floor.

GROUND FLOOR

2. At the bottom of the staircase, loop all the way round the lift.
3. Head down the corridor, then zig zag right and left before turning left into the Toys & Games Gallery.
Toys & Games

Yep, we know. You’re already playing with all the games and toys in this room. But if you can be torn away for just a second or two...

**TAKE YOUR PICK**

Have a look at the big cabinet, showing a whole range of toys through the ages.

If there was just one you could pick to play with now, which would it be? What makes for a great toy?

**SAILING THE HIGH SEAS**

(aka Gunnersbury Round Pond)

The wooden boat has a special link with Gunnersbury: it was sailed on the Round Pond in the park by three generations of the Bastable family.

Which of your toys would you give children of the future to enjoy?

**AND THE GRAND PRIZE?**

Tell each other about what is - or was - your all-time favourite toy, and why it’s so great.

Then, if you like, write (or draw) it down and share it with the world.
What next?

ONE FINAL CHALLENGE
Can each of you say five things you remember from your visit to the museum today?

IS THE WEATHER NICE?
Explore the gardens just outside, either by taking a wander yourself or following our Gunnersbury Park family trail, available free from visitgunnersbury.org

IS THE WEATHER ICKY?
You could try our other family trail that explores the history of the amazing house you’ve been wandering around. Download it at visitgunnersbury.org - there’s free WiFi at the entrance desk.

SHARE YOUR PICS!
@Gunnersbury1  @Gunnersbury1  @gunnersburyparkmuseum

Trail designed and illustrated by Matt Belcher / matt-belcher.com
© Gunnersbury Estate (2026) CIC. Some illustrations courtesy of vecteezy.com and Freepik