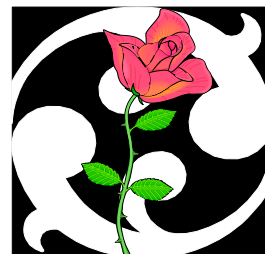


# FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK NEWSLETTER 17 (MAY 2007)



Welcome to the Spring edition of the Friends of Vauxhall Park Newsletter.

## **Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday 31 March**

The Easter Egg Hunt was a great success this year, thanks partly to an unusually warm day and the registration of a massive 183 children to search for Easter Eggs. A great turn out.

Huge thanks to all people who volunteered to “lay eggs”, marshal the gates, and in particular to Louise Norwood and Polly Freeman for organising.



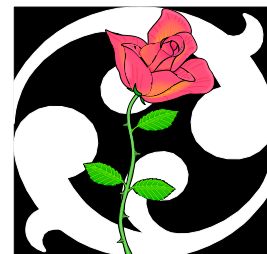
## **New café**

After protracted (4 years!) negotiations and dogged persistence on the part of all concerned, the agreement for the café lease and building works has been signed between the Council and Henri Laghi, the new proprietor, and work is due to commence shortly. The Council has already carried out the ancillary ground works. Sadly it won't be ready in time for the Summer Fair, but let's keep our fingers crossed for an invitation to the opening some time in the late summer.

## **Summer Fair on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June, 2.00pm – 5pm**

The Friends of Vauxhall Park are thrilled to say that we are going to run our Summer Fair again this year. Last year was a huge success and we are working on making this year even bigger and better.

## **FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK NEWSLETTER 17 (MAY 2007)**



Bring your friends and family to join in the fun on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June from 2.00pm. You will see some of your favourites from last year, including coaching by Surrey Cricket Club and Fulham Football Club, and the hugely successful giant bouncy castle. This year there will be some exciting additions, such as Go-Karts and Bric-a-Brac stalls.

There will be activities specifically aimed at children of all ages, including face painting, crazy sand, test tubes, Punch & Judy, hook-a-duck, and Giant Jenga.

We will also be running our very popular plant stall again. Please bring your contributions on the day by 1pm or, if you contact Ivan McCracken beforehand, he will be happy to collect.

Do you have something you would like to sell? This year you could have your own stall. If you would be interested, please contact Seth Taylor for details (see below).

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day. If you are free please contact

- children's events - contact Louise Norwood (see below)
- stewards - Seth Taylor (see below)

### **Green Flag**

Partly through the efforts of the Friends, Vauxhall Park has been short listed for the prestigious Green Flag Award.

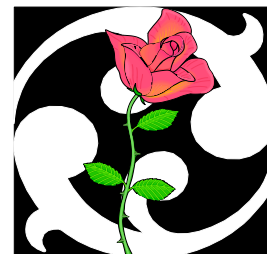
The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. The award scheme began in 1996 as a means of recognising and rewarding the best green spaces in the country. It was also seen as a way of encouraging others to achieve the same high environmental standards, creating a benchmark of excellence in recreational green areas.

Winning a Green Flag Award brings excellent publicity. Both the media and the public are becoming increasingly aware that a site flying a Green Flag is a high quality green space. For more information, visit their website – [www.greenflagaward.gov.uk](http://www.greenflagaward.gov.uk)

Currently in Lambeth, only one other green space has the award – Milkwood Open Space. If Vauxhall Park won this award, it would become a 'jewel in the crown' of Lambeth's open spaces. This would be a huge achievement.

The Green Flag inspectors will pay unannounced preview visits in April and/or May, and the actual judging will be in June. Fingers crossed, and we will let you know the outcome.

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### **Improvements to the Park**

The Parks Dept have recently undertaken a wide-ranging programme of improvements, many of them quite small in themselves but adding up to a major transformation in the park's appearance. These include new railings and kerbstones, re-surfacing of paths, removal of dead trees, improved perimeter security, a facelift for the One O'Clock Club and new planting schemes at the two main entrances. Also, the roof of the One O'Clock Club has been replaced following the havoc wreaked by the big storm in January. We are encouraging the Parks Dept to carry out several further improvements which would provide quick wins at low cost – watch this space!

One area of the park which is of continuing concern to the Friends is the Lavender Garden. The turf was unfortunately laid in the very hot and dry summer of 2003; it has never properly 'taken' and large areas are now weed-infested. We are working with the Council to try and find a low-cost but satisfactory solution to this difficult problem.

### **Memorial Benches and Trees**

The installation of four memorial benches last December will be followed by a further two in the next few months, and hopefully two new cherry trees as well. These are both wonderful ways of providing a lasting memorial to a loved one and the Friends are extremely grateful to the donors for their generous gifts. If anyone would like further information, please contact Ivan McCracken (see below).

### **Have your say in our park**

Your continuing membership helps us to have a voice to the Council, and enables us to keep Vauxhall Park looking and being the fabulous place it is. Your ongoing membership allows the Friends to continue our programme of steady – and sometimes dramatic – improvements and to run events which benefit the residents of the whole area. Donations over and above your membership are always welcomed.

If you have not yet renewed for 2007, please do so, using the attached membership form or see also our website [www.vauxhallpark.org.uk](http://www.vauxhallpark.org.uk). Membership matters – the more members we have, the more influence we have with the Council to get things done in the Park.

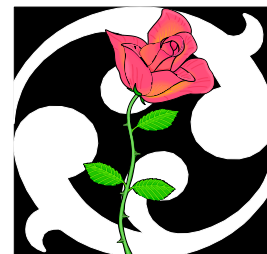
### **Simpler, cheaper and greener**

The Friends of Vauxhall Park would like to continue to send our newsletters to you electronically. If you have an email address but have not received this newsletter electronically, please let me know at [georgina@trevelyan-clark.com](mailto:georgina@trevelyan-clark.com) or 020 7582 1108

### **Chairman**

Our current chairman, Ivan McCracken, will sadly be moving away from the area. We are looking for someone to replace him. If there is anyone who can give some time and a strong interest in the park and its future, we would love to hear from you.

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## Dates of Meetings

Come and have your say at the Friends of Vauxhall Park open meetings. They are:-

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30 am at the Ashmole Tenants' Hall

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 10.30 am at the Ashmole Tenants' Hall (AGM)

*Georgina Trevelyan-Clark*

*Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor*

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This newsletter is distributed free to members.

To become a member please contact the Membership Secretary

Contacts:-

Ivan McCracken - [mccracken@beeb.net](mailto:mccracken@beeb.net) or 020 7735 9454

Seth Taylor - [seth@overmantels.co.uk](mailto:seth@overmantels.co.uk), or 020 7582 0928

Louise Norwood - [louise.norwood@virgin.net](mailto:louise.norwood@virgin.net) or 020 736 0083

Georgina Trevelyan-Clark – [georgina@trevelyan-clark.com](mailto:georgina@trevelyan-clark.com) or 020 7582 1108