



Friends of Vauxhall Park Newsletter 20 (November 2008)



Welcome to the Autumn Edition

Cafe Parco is now Open

Hooray! After many years of protracted negotiations, and much hard work by our former Chairman Ivan McCracken in particular, Café Parco opened in September. Pop in and see - there is a fantastic range of coffees, ice-creams, sandwiches and cakes to choose from.

The welcoming proprietor, Henri Laghi, has landscaped the surrounding area, successfully giving a focus to the Fentiman Road/South Lambeth Road corner of the park.

The Fountain

Many of you will have noticed that the fountain has been turned off. As a cost-cutting exercise, and to widespread criticism in the local press, Lambeth Council has turned off all the fountains in its parks and public spaces.

We are working hard to try and reverse this decision, and a petition to the Council is currently available in Café Parco - please add your name and sign this before the end of November, when we shall present it to the Council.

On the upside, the Friends are going to use this opportunity to renovate and re-paint the fountain so that when it is re-commissioned, as it surely will be, it will be brighter and better than before.

Green Flag Award for Vauxhall Park

We are delighted to report that Vauxhall Park has for the second year running been awarded a Green Flag, confirming its status as a park of outstanding quality.

More photos of this year's flag-raising ceremony are available on the website, www.vauxhallpark.org.uk.

Vauxhall Park is one of only three green spaces in Lambeth to receive this prestigious award and it is a great tribute to all involved with the park - the Friends, the Parks Department and their contractors Veolia - and confirms that our park continues to meet the exacting national standard of excellence.

This could not have been achieved without the commitment and enthusiasm of our gardeners, Richard and George, who make our park such a pleasant place in which to walk, sit and play.

New Gates on Fentiman Road

The new gates on Fentiman Road have now been installed. They are modelled on the original gates at the main entrances and provide a far grander looking entrance than the previous "temporary" gates - temporary, that is, since 1945. The gates were funded by a generous donor who wishes to remain anonymous but to whom we are immensely grateful.

We are always extremely thankful for any donations, large or small, as they enable us to carry out many of the projects that we have planned for the park.

One such project that we are working on is Phases 2 and 3 of the railing replacement programme, Phase 2 consisting of new railings along the South Lambeth Road perimeter, to match those already installed along the Fentiman Road.

All desired projects have been set out in our master plan, which can be accessed on our website: http://www.vauxhallpark.org.uk/index_files/Page624.htm

Friends of Vauxhall Park Website

Our Secretary, Helen Monger, has re-launched the Friends website - at www.vauxhallpark.org.uk. Amongst other things, the website includes information on the history of the park, photos from recent events and our master plan for the park.

2008 Summer Fair

This year's Summer Fair was a resounding success, with many local people turning out both to help and to participate - a huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped make it so enjoyable.

We introduced some new attractions this year, including the hugely successful Dog Show and the squirting moving wheelie bin to name but two.

The Friends would particularly like to thank all the sponsors of the fair. With their continuing support



Winner 2008

Friends of Vauxhall Park Newsletter 20 (November 2008)



we hope to build on our success by making next year's Fair even more exciting and entertaining.

Photos of the Fair can be viewed on our newly updated website – www.vauxhallpark.org.uk

Lavender Garden

The lavender bushes will be clipped and trimmed during November. If anyone would like to help themselves to some lavender before then, they are welcome to do so. We are delighted that some of our local primary schools will be bringing groups of children to do exactly that.

Open Meetings

We recognise the importance of consulting local opinion on all matters affecting the park. Our next open meetings are:-

5th November 2008, 10.30am St Anne and All Saints Church Community Room

Annual General Meeting - 31st January 2009, 10.30am Ashmole Tenants' Hall

All are welcome.

Membership now due

Annual membership runs from November to October and is now due for renewal.

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.

Donations over and above your membership are always welcomed. You can renew your membership by using the attached membership form or see our website 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.

*Georgina Trevelyan-Clark
Membership Secretary and Newsletter Editor*

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATION FORM

Name

Date

Address

.....
.....
.....

Email

.....

Tel:

.....

Annual Subscription
November 2008 – Oct 2009

Individual £3
Unwaged £2
Family £5
Group £5
Donation
TOTAL

Please make cheques payable to:-
Friends of Vauxhall Park
And send to:-

Georgina Trevelyan-Clark
Membership Secretary
101 Old South Lambeth Road
Friends of Vauxhall Park
London SW8 1XU