

FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK

NEWSLETTER No. 29



LAMBETH COOPERATIVE PARKS

Lambeth Council are currently exploring the idea of moving to a cooperative model for parks management. They have been consulting on three different models of management: Firstly to leave the management as it is with the Parks Department being the sole manager of the Park. Secondly, to manage the Park in cooperation with a group such as the Friends and thirdly, for local groups to be solely responsible for the management of the Park. Following the last meeting of the Friends, we are tentatively interested in the second management model but have requested more information from the Parks Department before any commitment is made. If you are interested in learning more, please do come to the AGM on 18 January or contact the Friends via the website: www.vauxparkpark.org.uk

THE FAWCETT PLAQUE

Just before Christmas, Kate Hoey MP unveiled the new plaque to Henry and Millicent Fawcett, who were such generous benefactors of the Park when it was established. It is situated by the mulberry tree on the central grassy area



near to the tennis courts and Café. Lucy Haugh, a talented young stone engraver, working in Burgess Park, made the plaque and we are very grateful to the South London Fawcett Group for sponsoring this plaque with the Friends. At the same occasion, we were delighted to welcome Cllr Sally Prentice, Lambeth Council Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, to the Park to officially raise Vauxhall Park's sixth Green Flag.



DOG AREA RAILINGS

We are pleased that a team from Community Payback have been working in the Park every Monday in recent weeks to take over from the residents of Graham House, who were unable to finish the painting of the railings around the dog area. We hope that our four legged friends will soon be enjoying a very smart new exercise area. We are very grateful to the Community Payback team for their hard work and enthusiasm.

LAVENDER



Following the community lavender harvest at the end of the summer, a car boot full of Vauxhall lavender was taken down to Carshalton Lavender Fields where Laurie Rudham kindly allowed us to use his bespoke distillery to produce over 10 litres of lavender oil. The oil can be bought through the Lavender Lady who is at the South Lambeth Market on the second Saturday of every month. It is richly aromatic and distinctly different from the other lavender oils so do try it out. Perfect for ironing out the stresses of inner city living! The lavender

garden, which was planted to mark the Centenary of the Vauxhall Motor Company in 2003 is now in need of replanting. The Friends hope to make this a project for 2014 to propagate new plants from the existing ones and extend the life of this highly popular feature of the park. If you are interested in taking part please call 07901 855887.



HUMAN (or Analemmatic) SUNDIAL



A very generous local resident has recently sponsored the installation of a human sundial in the middle of the lavender garden. It is set to GMT so, on a sunny day, go and stand on the correct month, as marked on the central stone, and see if your shadow gives an accurate time reading (in summer, your shadow will be an hour ahead!). We are delighted by this fascinating addition to the park and are very grateful to the Wells family for their inspired idea.

MODEL VILLAGE AREA PLANTING

We are very grateful to CLS for once again sponsoring the seasonal planting around the model village. We hope in future to work with CLS and other local volunteer groups to rethink the planting of this area to create a more logical siting of the houses and a more sustainable type of planting. The bedding plants will continue until the end of the summer and we will then endeavour to create a new focal point for the Park.

FUTURE DATES

AGM

**ASHMOLE TENANTS HALL, MEADOW
SATURDAY 18 JANUARY 10.30am**



ROAD