

FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK

NEWSLETTER No. 30



SUMMER FAIR



How could anybody resist spending a wonderful sun soaked day in the Park with more entertainments than ever before? This year's Summer Fair was a great success with possibly the largest crowd ever. They were entertained by the amazing Oval Montessori games for children, Go Karts, not just one but two bouncy castles, spinning tea cups, Punch and Judy, donkeys and a fantastic range of stalls and food. We were lucky enough to enjoy the National Youth Jazz Orchestra, sponsored kindly by a local resident and the incomparable Brass Oompah Band. We are extremely grateful to the many, many people who conjured up such a brilliant day: Winkworth who were our main sponsor, the Kennington Oval and Vauxhall Forum who sponsored some of the rides, Covent Garden Market Authority who donated plants to our magnificent plant stall supplementing the plants grown by our incredible Vauxhall gardeners and the London Pet Coach company who organised the dog show. If you were inspired by this year's fair and would like to get involved next year please contact us e:friends@vauxhallpark.org.uk or 07901 855887.

CHESS FOR ALL

You might have noticed that some of our picnic benches have been transformed into beautifully designed chess/draughts boards. A group from the Langham Hotel, guided by Art4Space spent a day in the Park painstakingly laying out mosaic tiles on to what were rather ordinary picnic benches. There are now chess and draughts pieces in Parco Café for you to borrow (although please return them there after use). The benches are usually in the area around the rose pergola and lavender garden but do seem to move around so first find your bench!



GREEN FLAG



We are delighted to announce that the Park has once again been awarded a Green Flag. The Green Flag Award Scheme recognises and rewards the best green spaces in the country. This means that Vauxhall Park is amongst the 1452 best open spaces in Great Britain! This year has been very difficult with maintenance budgets cuts to an absolute minimum and we are grateful to our Parks Officer, Mickey Penney and the Veolia team. All of Lambeth's 11 Green Flag parks kept their flag so it is a good year for Lambeth open spaces.

MODEL VILLAGE



Last year, Brian Salter visited our Model Village as part of his research into a new book *Model Towns and Villages* which has just been published. It features a fascinating selection of Model Villages across the country and the other villages made by Edgar Wilson that can be seen in Brockwell Park and Fitzroy Gardens in Melbourne, Australia. Brian thinks that Edgar Wilson worked at Crystal

Palace and must have salvaged some of the building's materials when it burnt down in 1936. If you look on the website of the Fitzroy Gardens village, you can see the tiles from the Alhambra section of the Crystal Palace display, which he used to create the stained glass windows of the church. Who knows, maybe our village contains some remnants of the Crystal Palace! If you would like to look at a copy of the book, or order one for yourself, please do contact us. Nobby Clark once again gave our houses a much needed coat of paint and clean up and moved a couple of houses that were marooned away from the others. Thank you Nobby!

THE PLAYGROUND

Representatives from the FOVP have recently formed a working group, in conjunction with Lambeth Council, to plan the long overdue development of our playground. We think it is approximately 20 years old – can anyone confirm how many generations of Vauxhall children have played on it?! Through the strong representations that the FOVP have made at many planning meetings, a substantial amount of Section 106 money has been promised from the developments that will happen adjacent to the Park as part of the VNEB cluster of tall buildings, which will be used to fund the playground. A landscape architect will be appointed, after a tendering process and we hope that they will be able to come to our next meeting on 27 September to discuss their ideas. Please do come along to let us know what you think.



WEBSITE

The address (www.vauxhallpark.org.uk) hasn't changed but we have recently revamped our website to include more information and an easier site to navigate around. Please do let us know if you have any comments to make about it or anything that you would like to see included.

FUTURE DATES

OPEN MEETING 10.30am SATURDAY 27 SEPTEMBER

AGM 10.30am SATURDAY 17 JANUARY 2015

BOTH AT ASHMOLE TENANTS HALL, 2 MEADOW ROAD