



# FRIENDS OF VAUXHALL PARK

## Chairman's Report 2019

The Park itself had a good year; it was well supported by Lambeth Borough Council who provided a full-time gardener, kept the Fountain going throughout the summer, and, exceptionally, continued arrangements to have the Park locked overnight. Behind the scenes things were not so satisfactory; there were delays in the tendering process for the contracts for the long-awaited Masterplan, and subsequently during its implementation.

As a consequence of these uncertainties, the traditional Summer Fair did not take place and was replaced by a smaller scale Friends' Reception in July; the Easter Egg Hunt however did take place, very successfully arranged and organized by Louise Norwood. The Gardening Group, coordinated by Polly Freeman and Tessa King-Farlow, continued to contribute hugely to the effective maintenance and attractiveness of the Park throughout the year; their achievements, together with those of Martin, the Park Gardener, were recognized by the Award of a Green Flag. The lavender was harvested in early September with the help of around a hundred volunteers from all over London; the oil was subsequently extracted and five litres produced for sale.

The overall concept for the Park, endorsed by the Council, is that it should remain focused on providing an environment of calm and tranquillity. There are other parks in north Lambeth which are able to provide the facilities to support physical fitness and well-being; the priority in Vauxhall Park is the promotion of mental health and well-being. Our existing strategy has been designed with this in mind, and is reflected in the developments which the Masterplan will deliver.

The Masterplan has been in gestation for six years; and after three consultancy exercises, the project was finally approved by the Council at a cost of approx. £1.5M for Phase I, together with a provisional Phase II with a committed, but still inadequate allocation of £300,000. Design Consultants were agreed and Turkington Martin appointed; they produced a thorough, balanced, and well thought plan which they discussed with the Friends at every stage. It had been anticipated that the project would start on the ground in early May 2019, but delays in the tendering process meant that idverde, the successful contractor, was not able to begin until early September last year. They immediately encountered deposits of asbestos from past construction activities and had to suspend work until the New Year while the extent of the contamination was investigated and subsequently dealt with.

They returned to the Park in the middle of January 2020, and now hope to complete the principal works by the end of May; this date may slip if work on the site has to be suspended as a result of any coronavirus work restrictions in the construction industry. There will still remain to be completed the refurbishment of the Tennis Courts, which is being done under a

separate contract, and some considerable work on the trees in the Park which will be done in-house by the Council's Tree Department.

At the same time, various improvements are being undertaken to enhance the unique heritage of the Park: the Human Sundial is being restored to a more prominent position, as is the Brick Labyrinth; the plaque in memory of Millicent Fawcett and her husband, Henry, who originally gifted the land to the public, is being upgraded; and a new Mosaic is being designed with the close involvement of the local community, and installed in the Fountain to celebrate the contribution which the Lavender Garden has made to the overall aspect of the Park.

3 April 2020

## Friends of Vauxhall Park

### Income and Expenditure Account year ending 31/10/2019

#### Income

Membership – Subs	£	227.00
Donations	£	737.00
Donations – Easter Egg Hunt	£	181.38
Gift Aid	£	213.79
Bank Interest	£	14.60
Lavender Oil sales	£	1,807.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>3,180.77</b>

#### Expenditure

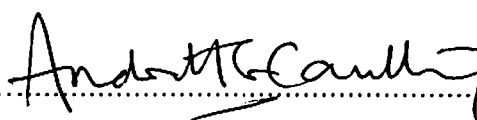
Hall Hire – 2018/2019	£	420.00
Insurance	£	279.75
Lavender Oil Extraction	£	100.00
Website	£	431.28
Lambeth licence	£	21.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>1,252.03</b>

Excess Income over Expenditure	£	1,928.74
Balance brought forward from last year	£	37,368.24
<b>Balance at 31/10/2019</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>39,296.98</b>

Lloyds TSB Current Account as of 31/10/2019	£	8,346.34
Lloyds TSB Business Account as of 31/10/2019	£	29,143.64
Lloyds TSB Current A/c Lavender oil sales received 30/03/2020	£	1,807.00

<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>39,296.98</b>
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Certified as true and fair by



A.H.G. CAUGHY 07/04/2020