



KOV QUARTERLY

Newsletter of the Kennington Oval & Vauxhall Forum

Dates for your diary

Tuesday, 24th April:	Vauxhall Energy Launch - 7-9 pm: Carmelita Centre, 41 Vauxhall Walk, SE11 5
Saturday, 28th April:	Local Election Hustings - from 11 a.m. St Mark's Church Kennington 337 Kennington Park Rd, (opposite Oval tube station)
Saturday, 28th April:	Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition , inside the church alongside the above
Sunday, 29th April:	Neighbourhood Plan Exhibition continues, around noon, after morning service. (see website for news of other exhibition venues)
Thursday, 3rd May	Local Election Day - VOTE!
Wednesday, 9th May	DEADLINE to complete Neighbourhood Plan consultation 5 min survey

More details of these events and more inside...

Neighbourhood Plan Launched ...

A launch party was held on the 19th March to celebrate reaching the official consultation stage of the KOV Neighbourhood Plan.

The event was very different from our regular meetings. Around a hundred community members, including some candidates in the upcoming council elections, came to view the Neighbourhood Plan's progress on ten display boards in a relaxed atmosphere with some tasty food.

We were entertained by two local musical talents - *Vauxhall Voices*, and the junior wind band from *In Harmony*. (see links and article below for more info.)



Launching the KOV Neighbourhood Plan with the community and being entertained by junior wind band, "[In Harmony](#)"

... now out for consultation

Please check out the Plan and the display boards which are available on our website:

www.kovforum.org.uk

There is also a five minute online survey consultation you can access from the KOV website by going directly to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KOV2018>

We welcome your response no later than 5pm, Wednesday 9th May 2018. The plan is also available to view and survey forms are available in hard copy at:

Tate South Lambeth Library
180 South Lambeth Rd
London SW8 1QP

OR

Durning Library
167 Kennington Lane
London SE11 4HF

Local Elections 2018

On Thursday, 3rd May voters in all London boroughs will be heading to the polls.

Anyone who attended KOV’s meetings or hustings over the last few years will have heard heart-felt debates over the future of libraries, the dire state of housing, struggling adventure playgrounds, threats to local green spaces, and ongoing controversies over the Vauxhall gyratory and the bus station — to name but a few.

The election is your opportunity to make your voice heard. Please ask all candidates to back our Neighbourhood Plan. We will need their support, whoever wins.

You have three votes to cast.

European citizens in community DO have the right to vote in these elections.

Use your (three) votes.



Your turn for questions

Like a laid back Question Time in the sunshine (hopefully), a hustings event is an opportunity for voters to take issues up with potential councillors directly.

You get to ask the questions face-to-face with the candidates in the pleasant surroundings of Kennington’s St Mark’s Churchyard during the weekly market. (The hustings is organised in conjunction with the Oval Farmers Market.)

The vicar of St Mark’s Church, Rev. Steve Coulson, has been the event’s moderator in recent years. In other words, he is the man in control of the microphone.

If you ever wanted to do more than just voting a hustings is a great place to participate.

With the hustings taking place at the same time as the Oval Farmers Market, there is always a good crowd and plenty of tasty treats and decent coffee close at hand.

We hope to see you there!

Oval Ward Candidates

Liberal Democrats	Stéphane Croce	Kathryn Grant	Mike Hillier
Labour	Jack Hopkins*	Claire Holland*	Phillip Normal
Conservatives	Joshua Gething	Peter Goves	James Hallett
Green Party	Michael Keane	Cath Potter	Pat Price-Tomes

Prince’s Ward Candidates

Labour	David Amos*	Jon Davies	Joanne Simpson*
Conservatives	Claire Barker	Jon Harrison	Michael Jefferson
UKIP	Alan Bowles	Robert Stephenson	Mattias Tornstrand
Federalist Party	Stuart Clark		
Green Party	Helen Gardiner	Nick Hemus	Fern Lindsay
Liberal Democrats	Richard Hardman	Christopher Keating	Colette Thomas
Women's Equality	Eleanor Hemmens		

Details available from www.lambeth.gov.uk/elections-and-council/elections

* designates sitting Councillors

Celebrating Suffrage

PROCESSIONS is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to take part in a mass participation artwork to celebrate one hundred years of votes for women.

On Sunday 10th of June, women and girls in Belfast, Cardiff, Edinburgh and London will walk together as part of this celebratory mass participation artwork.

Central to the procession will be a series of banners each made by an artist working in collaboration with a group of women from a different part of the country. The Nine Elms Vauxhall Partnership are looking for participants to take part in 6 weekly workshops from April to May, working with artist **Ruth Ewan** to design and make a banner for the area. The banner will draw its inspiration from **Charlotte Despard**, a social activist and suffragist who lived and worked across East Battersea, Nine Elms and Lambeth at the turn of 20th century.

If you would like to get involved in the project or would like any further information please contact Rosie Hermon, Nine Elms Arts and Events Manager – rosie@nineelmsonthesouthbank.com / 07920 214428



Vauxhall Voices

Anyone can join! No auditions, no previous experience and no formal music skills needed.

All children sing! All adults can, therefore, sing: they've perhaps just forgotten how...

NEW TERM BEGINS:

23rd April 2018

7-9pm at the Wheatsheaf Community Hall, SW8 2UP.

Open to newcomers until 22nd May

vauxhallvoices.com



... from a singer's perspective

Who better to talk about this vibrant local choir than one of its newest Voices?

"I have loved *Vauxhall Voices* since the minute I joined when, within five minutes of the warm-up, our leader Janna had coached four parts into singing a song from scratch. I had walked through the door of the Wheatsheaf Hall with fear and trepidation: nervous about the unknown, nervous about the degree of exposure to which I was about to subject myself and here I was, singing close harmonies with people who instantly didn't feel like strangers any more...

My name is Susannah Frieze and, though I am a veteran of singing in large choirs, I knew after the first ten minutes with *Vauxhall Voices* that I had found my musical home. With singing, four things have to work: the people you sing with, the direction and personal style of the choir leader, the repertoire of the music chosen and your own comfort level of how much you are prepared to sing out.

For me, after years of often painful part-by-part sight-reading in a large classical choir that sang only huge classical pieces, it was simply joyous to be singing out and singing together and making music so quickly and so effortlessly!

I came to *Vauxhall Voices* through a combination of word-of-mouth and Facebook, a mix of old and new recruitment methods! I work locally, saw on Facebook that a friend from work was singing in a *Vauxhall Voices* gig and posted an envious, "This sounds wonderful – your choir sounds great!"

She then cornered me at the coffee machine and urged me to come. I wasn't convinced that singing with a local community choir, when I live in Shepherds Bush, would be particularly welcoming for me, but I couldn't have been more wrong.

As my friend Jane puts it, "*Vauxhall Voices* is a diverse group of people but there is a genuine sense of community. I think singing together and breathing together brings people together naturally. There's a real feeling of elation when we sing and all the parts come together to create harmony. It can be quite emotional!"



She's not wrong about the emotional part. Janna, our leader, has that rare quality of being able to elicit something very special from a roomful of people, many of whom didn't even know they could sing. She can hold 30 people enthralled, engaged and learning fast, without a sheet of music in sight.

She is entirely inclusive but rewardingly effective: she encourages the shyest of newcomers to sing at the top of their newfound voice and yet achieves that musical nirvana of bringing in the dynamic to an exquisite controlled hush when required. Like all good choirmasters, there is a touch of the magician about Janna.

Often I have walked in for that Monday evening session feeling cold, tired and down; two hours later it is as if Janna has waved a magic wand: suddenly I feel warmed through, energised and uplifted. Turns out that singing isn't just fun, it's free therapy...

Singing *a capella* (voices only, no instrumental accompaniment) also makes music feel more intimate and immediate, helped by the fact that the repertoire of Vauxhall Voices is so eclectic and global, sharing one common theme: a big heart!



From Gaelic lullabies, to African marching ceremonies to Russian love songs to Motown classics, there is something for everybody.

But don't just take my word for it. I asked fellow singer (now Treasurer of the choir) Ian Barber how he felt about Vauxhall Voices and he summed it up beautifully:

"For whatever reason, I never thought singing with others was for me, until I saw an ad for Vauxhall Voices and decided to try it. I'm so glad I did. You turn up, leave life, work and Monday at the door and two hours later, go home feeling great. It's like exercise, but for the soul. And without all the sweating!"

VAUXHALLVOICES.COM



Vauxhall Energy Launches

Vauxhall Energy is a local community group working together to install solar panels on the roofs of Vauxhall Gardens Estate that will generate clean renewable energy for the community.

The project will reduce the community's carbon footprint, provide an income for a community fund, demonstrate the viability of such projects, raise awareness about energy, reduce fuel poverty and provide training opportunities for local people.

Repowering London has been providing guidance to Vauxhall Energy to help get the project off the ground. It is a not-for-profit organisation that specialises in facilitating the co-production of community-owned renewable energy projects. Their aim is to promote and facilitate the widescale development and local ownership of renewable energy projects through the creation of resilient, empowered communities.

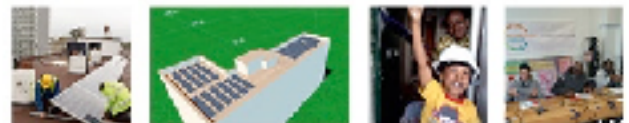
So far, Repowering London has installed 132kWp of community-owned renewable energy, saving almost 60 tonnes CO2 per annum including, amongst others:

- **Repowering Lambeth Schools:** a series of community energy projects on 6 Lambeth educational facilities in partnership with the Council
- **Energy Garden:** the world's first citywide combined community energy and gardening project
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CARMELITA CENTRE, 7-9PM
41 Vauxhall Walk, London SE11

Learn more about Vauxhall Energy
Invest in shares
Solar panel making demo
Food, music and good times!



- **Electric Avenue feasibility study:** an investigation into setting up a solar energy co-operative in the Brixton Market area
- **Banister House:** Hackney's first community solar installation

Repowering London are currently mentoring five other community energy groups to facilitate community energy across London. That are working with Brixton Energy, Hackney Energy, Rosendale Energy, Vauxhall Energy and Streatham Power, whilst supporting the development of Community Energy London.

For more information about getting involved in these groups and Community Energy London please contact:

afsheen.rashid@repowering.org.uk
<http://www.repowering.org.uk/>