

FRIENDS OF EDEN



Kate Hoey opens Eden's pond

Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall Central, opened the new pool at Eden on June 13, the day of St Paul's summer fete. She was welcomed to Eden by the vicar, Debbie Matthews, and then "cut the ribbon" with Eden's gardener Stephen Barney.

Ms Hoey said, "I have been Vauxhall's MP for 20 years but I have never been asked to open a pond before." She stressed the importance of green spaces for urban areas and welcomed the number of volunteers who contribute to the well-being of Eden. Also present was Lambeth councillor Helen O'Malley.

Among the vibrant pond visitors are frogs, dragonflies and damson flies.



Pondering a sustainable future. Above: Kate Hoey MP and gardener Stephen Barney, celebrate the opening of Eden's pond (left) in June.

Photos: Ailis Kane

Eden wins prestigious Green Pennant award

The Civic Trust (now part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign) has awarded Eden garden its prestigious Green Pennant award for 2009-2010, for the fourth year. Eden's chair, Philippa Gould, said: "We're absolutely delighted. It puts Eden on the map and recognises everyone's hard work."

Eden is the only community garden in Clapham and only one of six in Lambeth to

win the award. The Green Pennant is awarded to gardens managed by voluntary and community groups who promote recycling, the promotion of native species and organic gardening. Eden certainly fits the bill on those counts.

The judges, who visited the garden in June, said that in terms of innovation and creativity, Eden showed a "highly creative use of a small space

to pack in maximum amenity use, food growing and nature conservation value." They also commented that, given its size, Eden was "well managed and very rich", and had excellent links with the community.

As part of St Paul's churchyard, Eden also boasts a Green Flag. This is the national standard for parks and green spaces to create "a benchmark of excellence."

Pottery plans

Clapham Pottery is moving into 4A Rectory Grove - the old chapel at the top end of Eden Garden – in September. Co-ordinator Naine Woodrow said the Pottery, which has full charitable status, hopes to work closely with Eden. “We are really pleased to being a close neighbour of Eden,” said Naine. “We are keen to liaise on our community projects, and want to use the garden for our more vulnerable students in particular.”

The Pottery’s first project is to glaze the tiles made by children and families at the church fete and then attach them to the wooden raised beds in the garden. This will be an excellent contribution; and a way of lengthening the life of the beds.

Naine believes that the Pottery – which will have up to 150 students a week (half of whom are children) – can only be beneficial to the garden. She hopes it will contribute sculptural pieces and ground murals. There will also be outdoor firing in the warmer months in the back of the churchyard – with opportunities for all the community to join in.

Contact us:

Philippa Gould, Eden’s chair, is on 07803608375 and email: philippajgould@btinternet.com

Work with us:

Eden belongs to the community. Come when you can...and bring your ideas, money, labour, and anything else that can help us.

Well bedded

The raised beds are thriving, and have been full of vegetables, herbs, flowers - and of course a few desirable weeds – over the summer (let no one say that Clapham will not be able to “dig for victory” if the time comes).

And there are plans to build more, in the top part of the



garden, says Stephen, who would also like to welcome more raised bed enthusiasts, especially wheelchair users, to work as a team.

● A water butt has been installed at the back of the church to **collect water** from the roof. A pipe from the butt under the path feeds a tank next to the pond. This is to ensure the pond remains at a correct level.

● The **summer solstice** was celebrated on Sunday 21st June at Eden with the garden in full bloom.

● Clapham Montessori, the pre-school based in the church hall, wants to develop a “**scramble**” area up by the bay trees. Stephen is hoping to build it alongside a “bug tower” to attract insects, such as ladybirds, lacewings and bumblebees, and so make it another wildlife friendly zone to increase our biodiversity.

● Anyone for netting? Stephen is looking for some netting to drape tastefully over the pond to stop the leaves clogging up the water this autumn. Please contact Philippa (see contact details below) if you can help.

● Also...bulbs wanted. If you have ordered **69 varieties** of tulips but only have space for 50, please can Eden have your unwanted bulbs - and that includes crocuses.

● **Passing comments....**On a sunny morning in early September, a father and two young sons were enjoying the peace of Eden. Dougie and sons John and Derek are regular visitors to the garden. They like what Dougie calls “the oasis” of Eden. “We love the **peace and quiet**,” says Dougie, who lives off Larkhall Rise. “We have time talk to each other here. It’s just a lovely spot. There’s no aggravation.” (And Derek says he would like to turn his hand to growing tomatoes.)

● And finally...**fennel**, and, in the background, Stephen.

