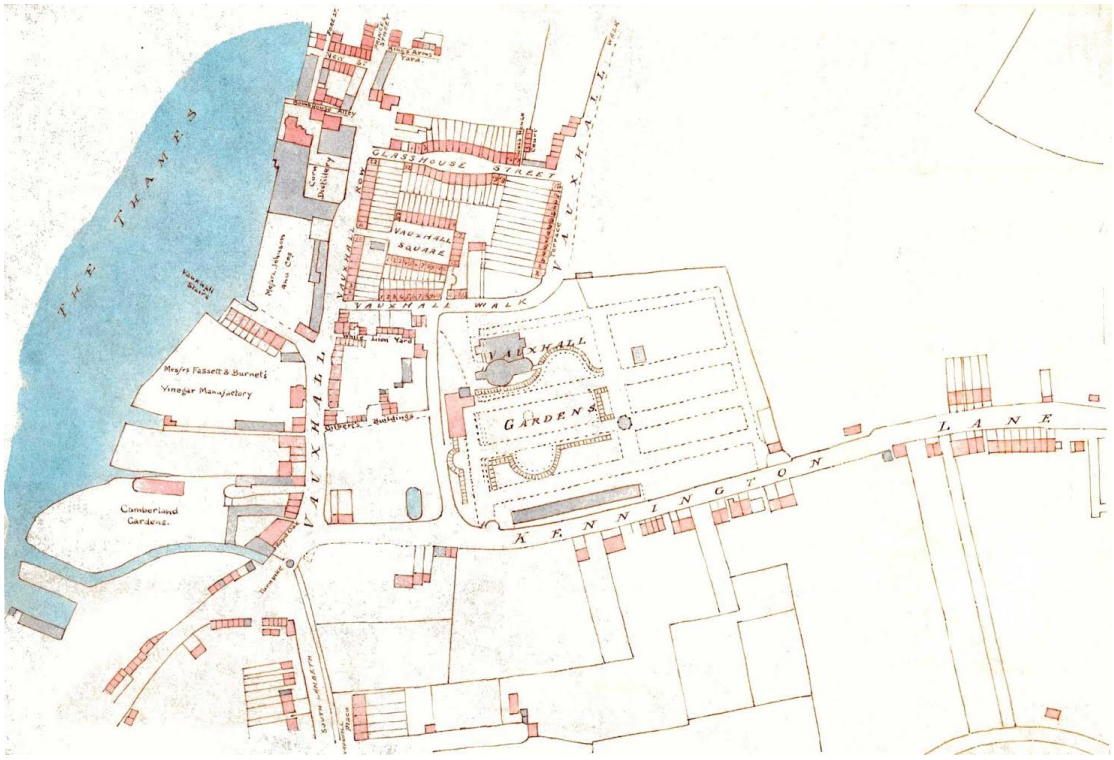


Fig 1a. Map of the Gardens site c.1800

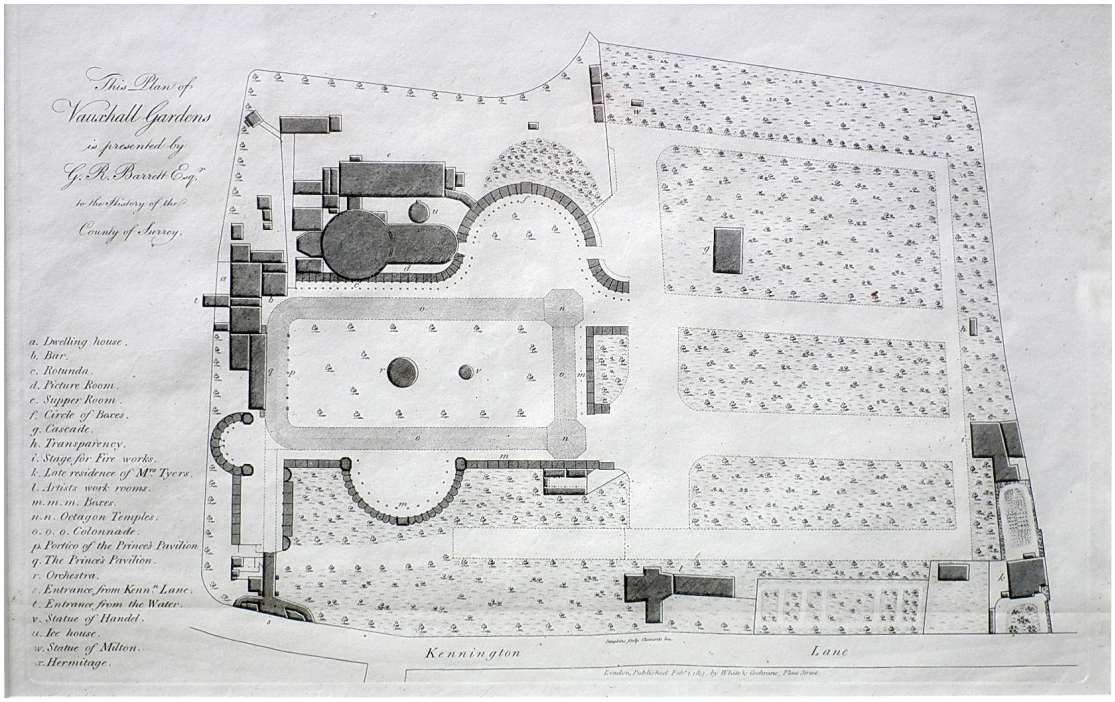


Fig 1b. Plan of Vauxhall Gardens, GR Barrett 1813



Fig 2. Vauxhall Gardens pageant c.1840 (British Museum)



Fig 3. An 1813 cartoon by George Cruikshank

Two young females, one of them habited in male attire, were charged with committing a disturbance, and ringing the bell, at the street-door of the house inhabited by Mr. Agar Ellis, Spring-gardens, at a late hour on the previous night.

It appeared that the two defendants were fellow-servants in the same house, and feeling a strong desire to witness the humours of Vauxhall, and being in want of a beau to afford them protection, they hit upon the following expedient—namely, that one of them should dress as a man and escort the other. Having provided themselves with a suit of clothes belonging to "young master," they cast lots to see which of them should wear the breeches. The lot, as it happened, fell upon the smaller of the two, who made, however, a very tidy little man. Having stolen up the kitchen staircase on tip-toe, away they went arm in arm to share in the festivities of Vauxhall. The adventures which they met with there did not however appear in evidence before the magistrate; but from th. circumstance which occurred on their return home, it may be inferred that the excitement of the scenes which they had witnessed had its due effect. It appeared that to keep up the lark they kept pulling the bells of the several houses which they passed until they came to the door of Mr. Ellis, where unluckily their amusement was checked, by the presence of one of the nightly guardians, who pounced upon the man-woman in the act of pulling the house-bell with all her might, while her companion stood laughing at the joke. Both the defendants were then marched off to the watchhouse, and there it was that she who appeared to be a man acknowledged to the night-constable her feminine designation.

The poor girls appeared to be sadly frightened, and regretted the rash step which they had taken, which they were afraid, they said, would cost them their places.

Sir R. BIRNIE told them that their predictions were verified, their master having written to say that he had discharged them both from his service. He (the magistrate) hoped, however, that their foolish frolick would not have the effect of keeping them very long from earning an honest livelihood.

Both the defendants were then discharged, with a caution for their future behaviour.

Fig 4. The Times, August 14, 1829



Fig 5. An 1846 illustration of a bal masque at the Gardens



Fig 6. An 1848 poster for the Royal Vauxhall Gardens


Fig 7. The Gardens next to the railway, 1859

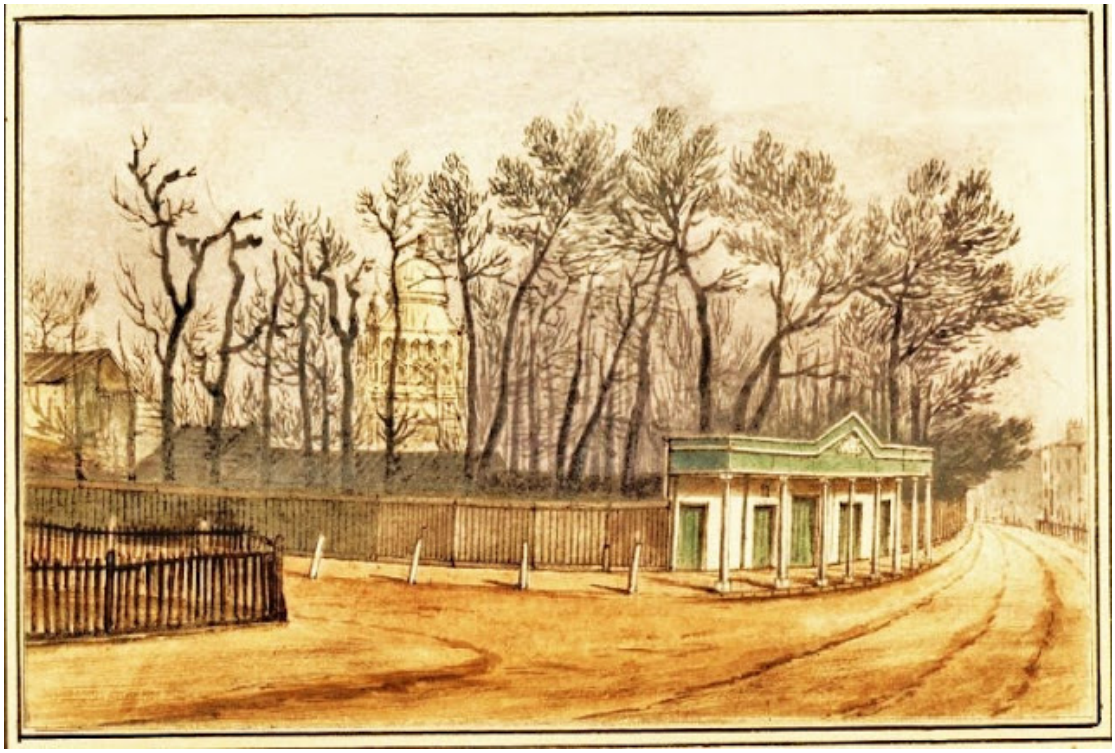


Fig 8a. The Kennington Lane entrance to the Gardens in a drawing of 1850 (Chas Bigot)



Fig 8b. The Kennington Lane entrance to the Gardens in a drawing of 1850 (British Museum)

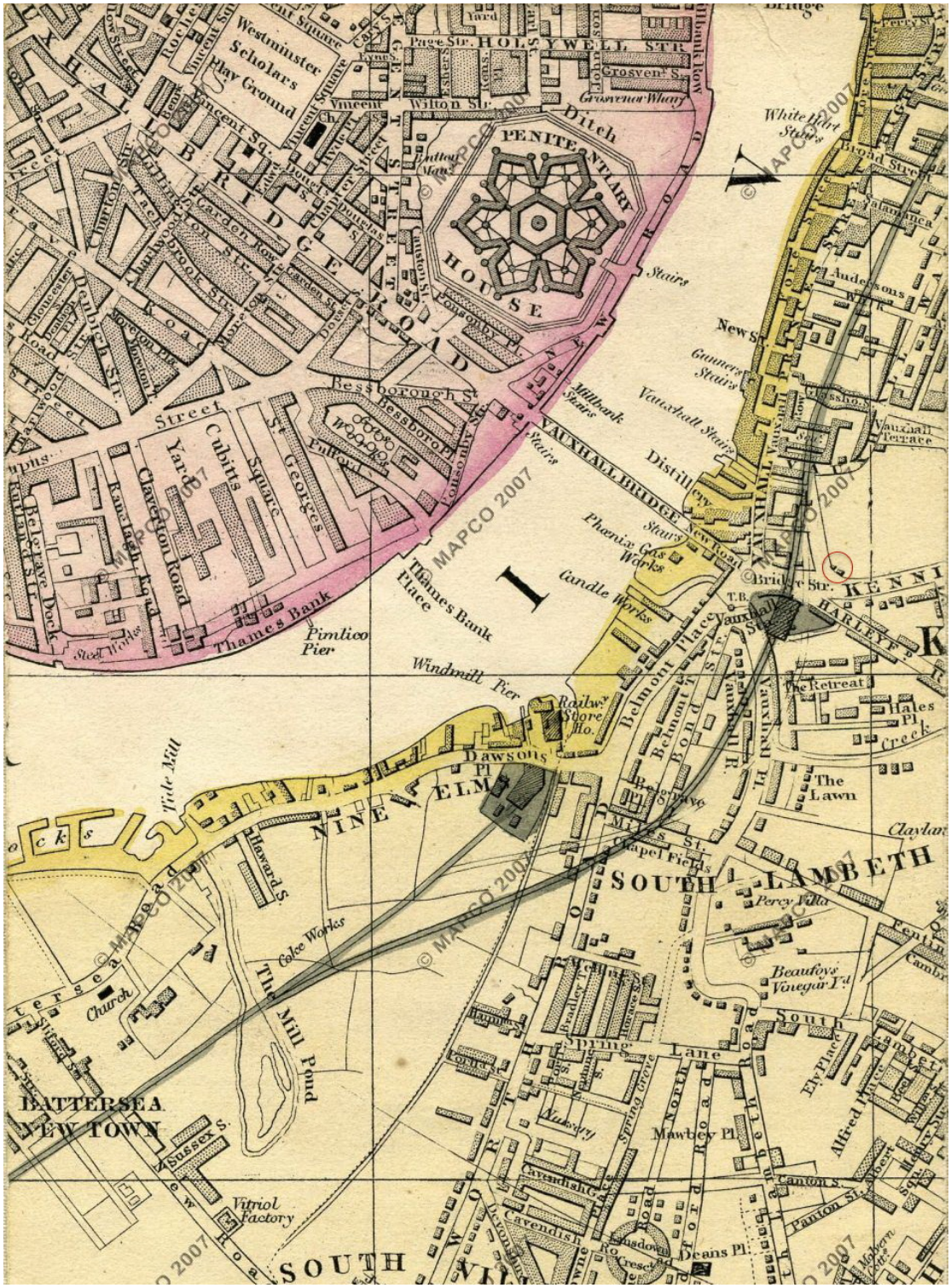


Fig 9. Joseph Cross's 1861 map

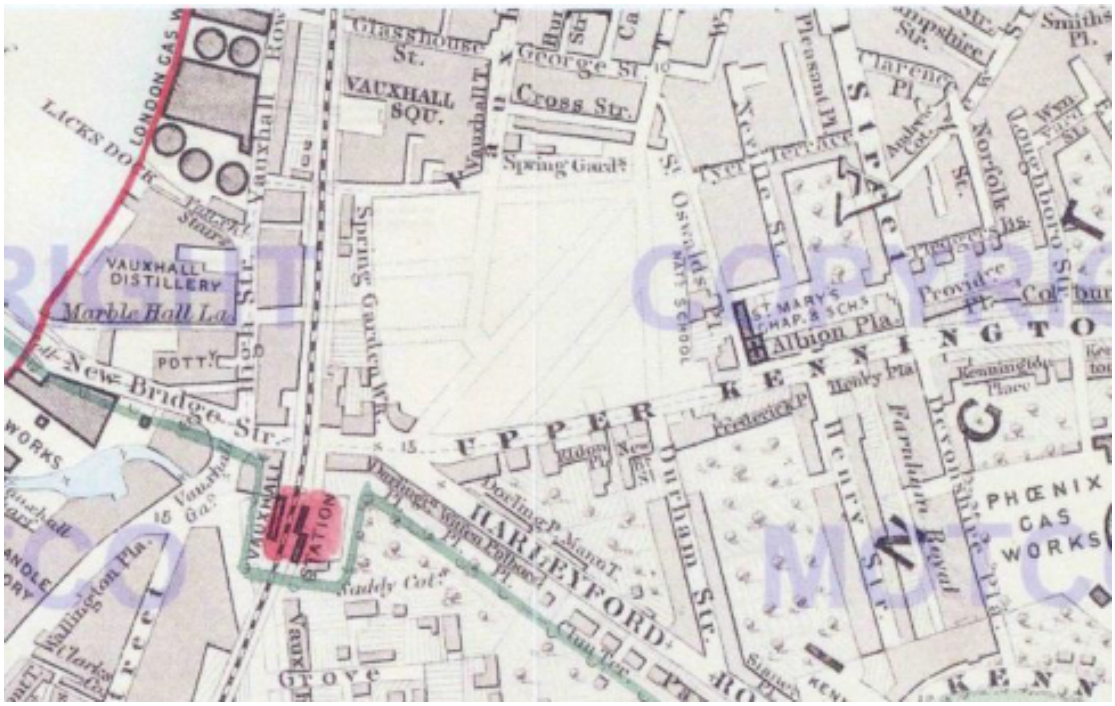

Glasshouse St.
VAUXHALL SQU.
Cross St.
George St
Spring Gard.
LICKS DOCK
LONDON GAS W.
VAUXHALL DISTILLERY
Marble Hall La.
POTT.
New Bridge St.
WORKS
Vauxhall Bridge Rd.
Spring Garden Wk.
Vauxhall Row
Vauxhall Gro.
Vauxhall Gate
Wellington Pla.
Vauxhall Pl.
Vauxhall Walk
Vauxhall Terrace
Vauxhall St.
Osnaburgh St.
Pleasant Pl.
Tyer Terrace
Tyer St.
Clarence Pl.
Hampshire St.
Smiths Pl.
Norfolk Pla.
Norfolk St.
Longsborough St.
Providence Pl.
ST MARY'S CHAP. & SCHS
Albion Pla.
Kennington Pl.
Kennington Place
Kennington Park Place
Kennington Park Road
Kennington Park Pl.
Kennington Park Gardens
Kennington Oval
Kennington Lane
Kennington Rd.
Kennington Gate
Kennington Green
Kennington Cross
Kennington Pk. Rd.
Kennington Pk. Pl.
Kennington Pk. Gdns.



Fig 11. OS map, c.1875



Fig 12. RVT exterior c 1950



Fig 13a. Aerial shot 1938 (britainfromabove.org.uk)

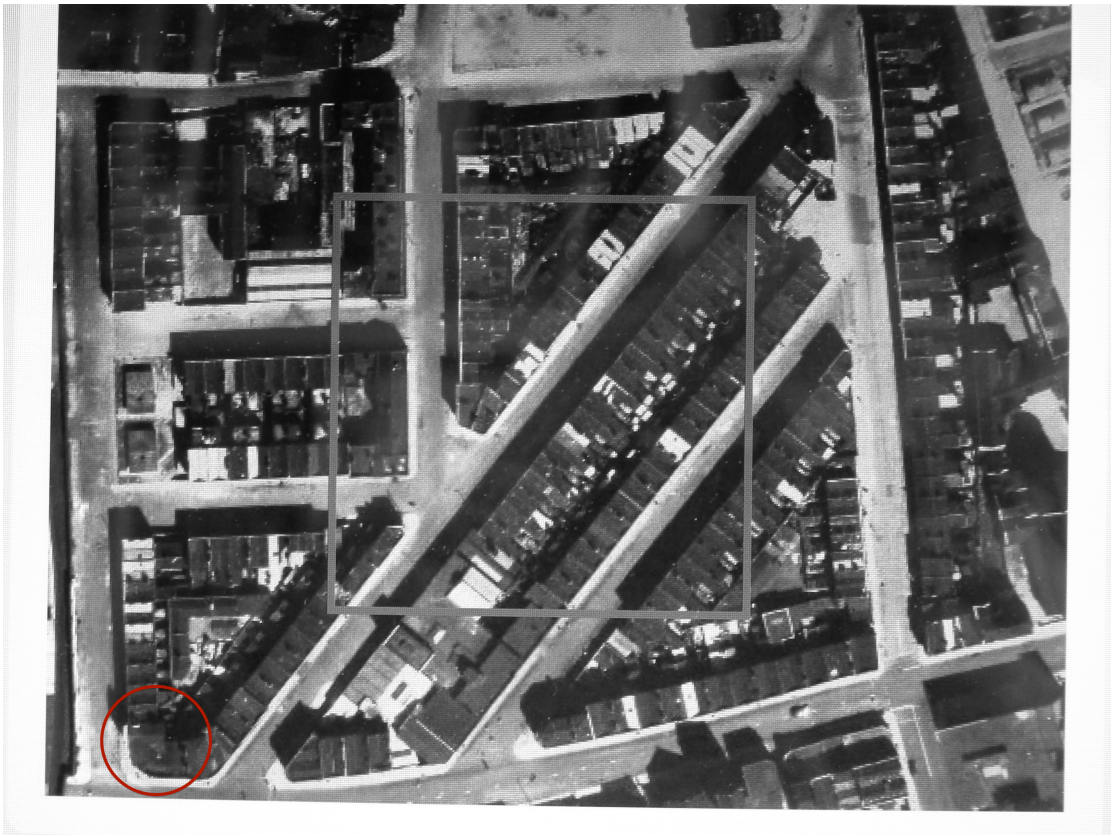


Fig 13b. Aerial photograph, 1940s

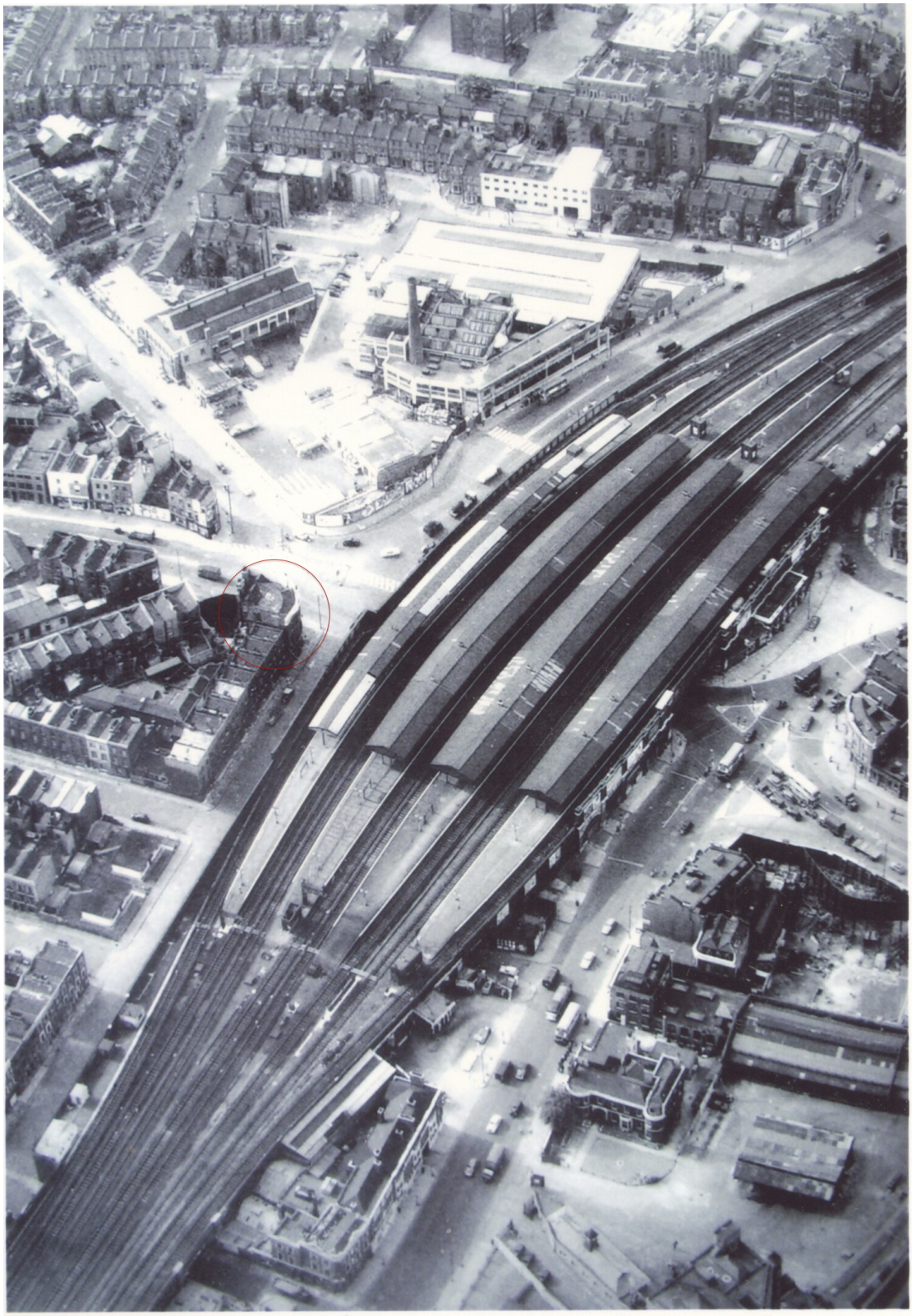


Fig 13c. Aerial shot of Vauxhall circa 1955



Fig 14. RVT exterior c. 1979

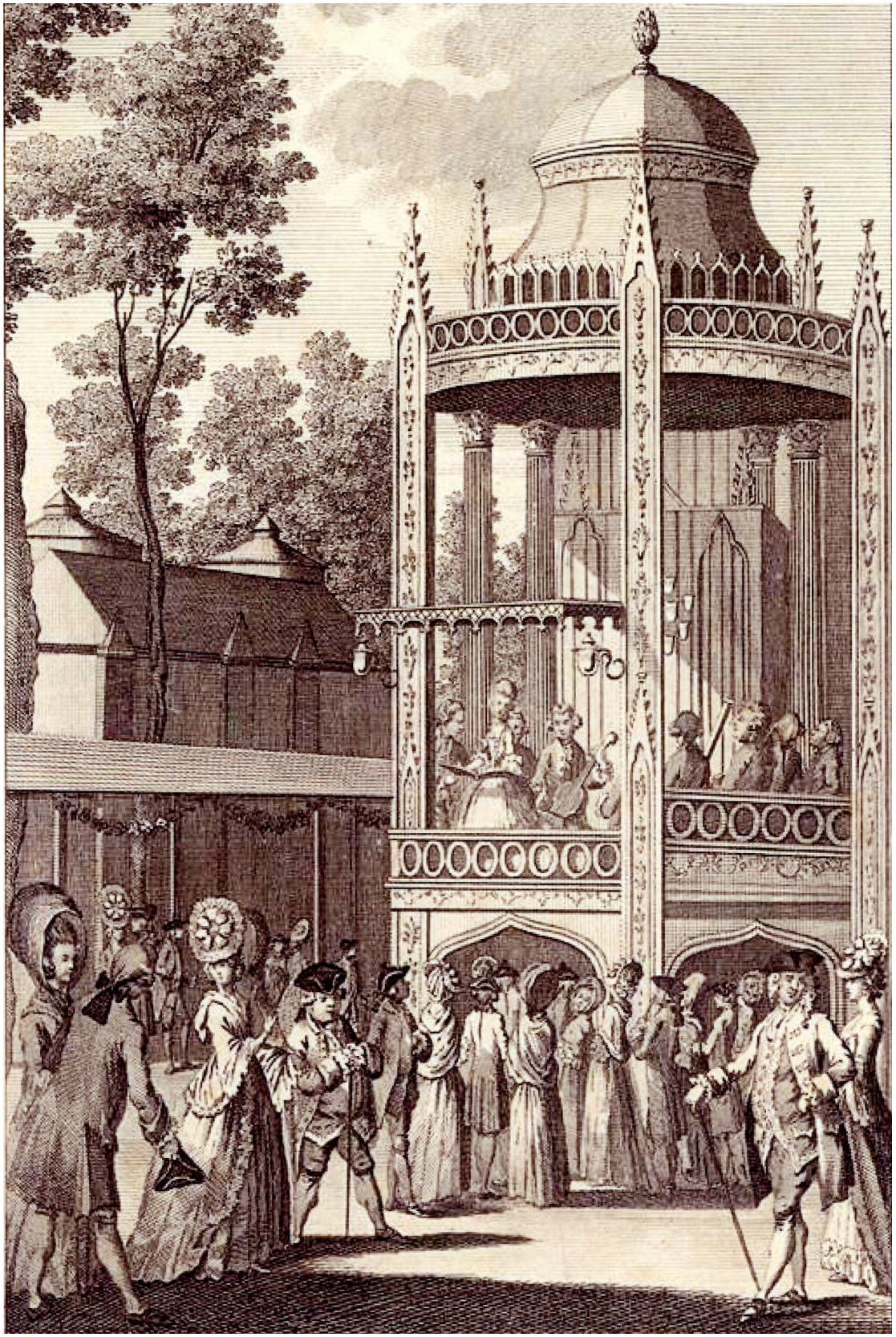


Fig 15. The frontispiece of a 1778 edition of the Vocal magazine



Fig 16. A 1799 engraving for the Lady's magazine

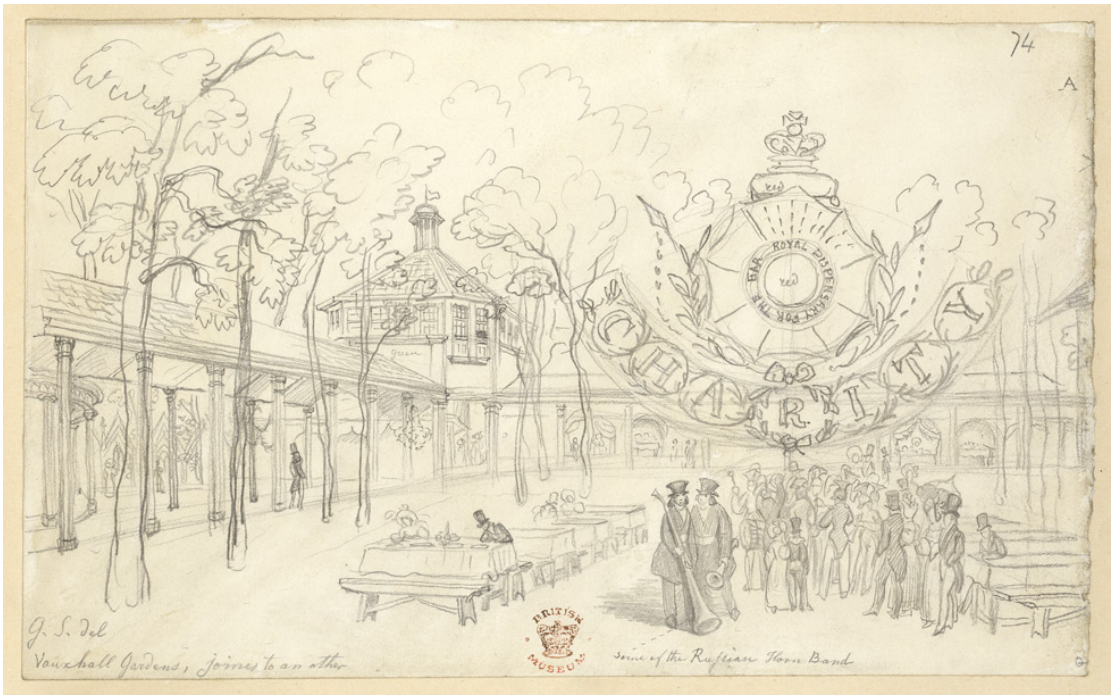


Fig 17. An 1827 drawing by George Scharf, British Museum holdings



ROYAL GARDENS, VAUXHALL.

FIRST PORTION OF THE SALE OF THE FIXTURES, FITTINGS, PLANT, AND MATERIALS.

A CATALOGUE

OF THE VALUABLE

Fixtures, Fittings, and Building Materials,

OF THE

ROYAL GARDENS, VAUXHALL,

CONSISTING OF

THEATRE, ORCHESTRA, DANCING PLATFORM,
FIREWORK GALLERY,
FIGURES OF NEPTUNE AND SEA HORSES,
FOUNTAINS, STATUES, VASES, GROTTO WORK,
FITTINGS OF ROTUNDA,
COFFEE ROOM, AND SUPPER BOXES,
ENGINE HOUSE, WITH ENGINE, GEAR, SAWS, &c.
GASOMETER AND RETORTS,
ABOUT SIXTY-ONE IRON COLUMNS,

Large Square and Circular Tables, Forms, Seats with Backs, Cane Seated Chairs, Gas Fittings, and a Variety of Miscellaneous Articles and Effects.

The whole to be disposed of, in consequence of its being decided to Let this Valuable Freehold Property for

BUILDING PURPOSES.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION,

BY MESSRS. DRIVER,

ON THE PREMISES,

On MONDAY, AUGUST 22nd, at Eleven for Twelve o'clock precisely.

1859

May be Viewed, Three days previous to the Day of Sale, by Admission Catalogues, Sixpence each (to be returned to Purchasers), to be had of the Manager, at the Office of the Vauxhall Gardens Estate; at the Auction Mart, London; and of Messrs. DRIVER, Surveyors, Land Agents, and Auctioneers, 5, Whitehall, London, S.W.

Fig 18a. The catalogue for the auction on August 22, 1859 of material from the Gardens

142 A large ornamental flower vase and stand.

143 Ditto.

144 The whole of the rock and shell work in front of basin and mount (not the sides and floor of basin).

145 The rock and shell-work to left of Ballet Theatre.

COVERED WALK—RIGHT SIDE OF GARDEN.

146 Two 6-inch octagon iron columns, 12 feet high, on stone bases, and stout iron roofing ribs, and 1 bay of roof timbers and slate boarding.

147 Two ditto ditto and 1 bay ditto.

148 Four ditto ditto and 2 ditto.

149 Four ditto ditto and 2 ditto.

150 Four ditto ditto and 2 ditto,

151 Four ditto ditto and 2 ditto.

152 Four ditto ditto and 2 ditto.

153 Six ditto ditto and 3 ditto.

154 Six ditto ditto and 3 ditto.

155 Six ditto ditto and 3 ditto.

156 Six ditto ditto and 3 ditto.

157 Six ditto ditto and roofing as marked.

158 Seven ditto ditto and ditto.

159 The whole erection of a range of 7 supper boxes and fixed seats (not the slates), including leanto roof from covered walk to boxes.

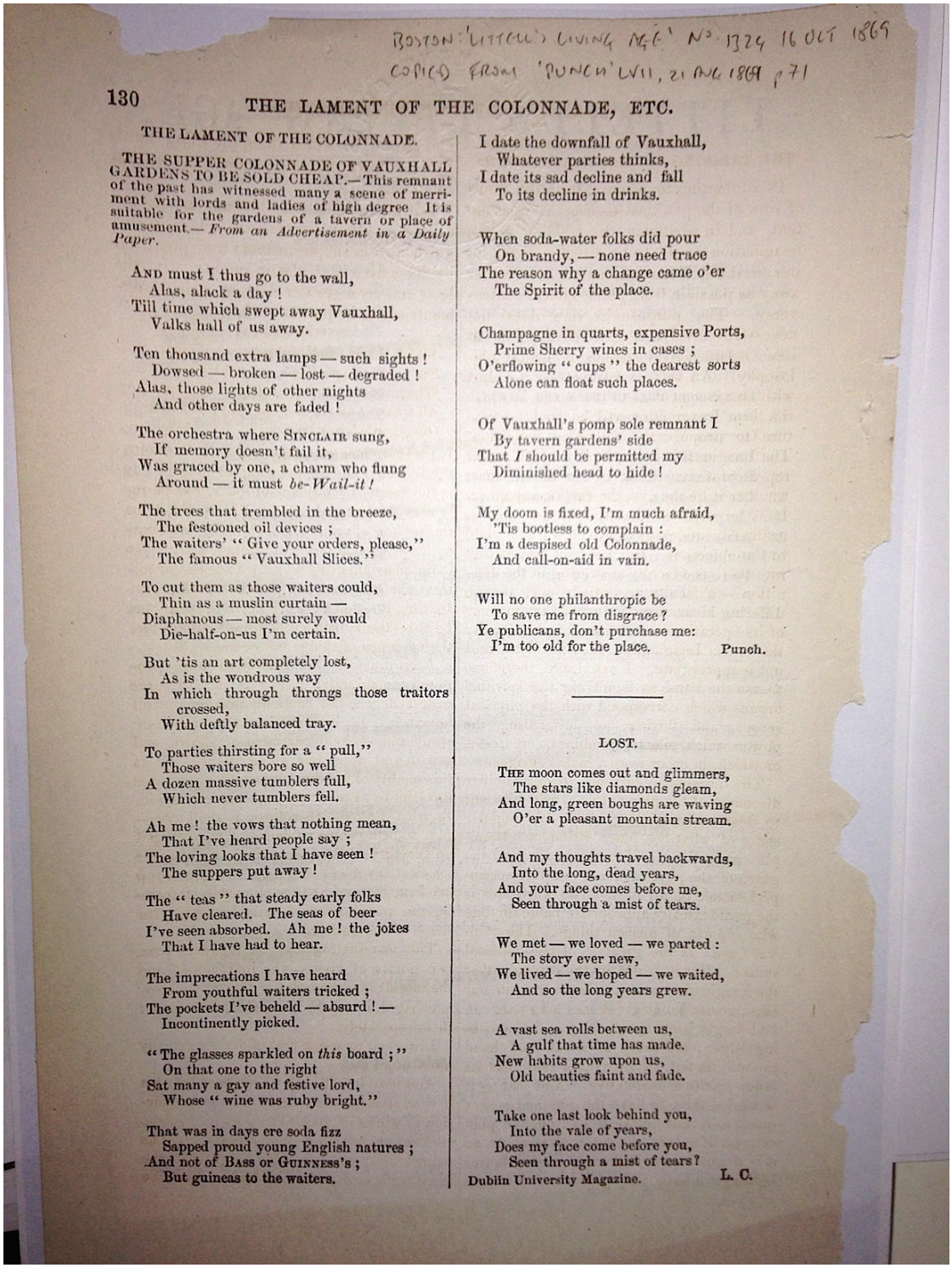
160 About 3½ squares of slates over ditto.

161 The whole erection of a range of 4 boxes and fixed seats on sweep, with leanto roof and Pillars.

162 A range of 8 boxes and seats, with leanto roof and pillars; also the erection of Entrance from Sweep to Italian Walk, with columns, doors, &c.

163 A range of 7 ditto ditto.

Fig 18b. Details from the catalogue of some of the columns for sale



BOSTON: 'LITTELL'S LIVING AGE' No. 1324 16 OCT 1869
COPIED FROM 'PUNCH' LVII, 21 AUG 1869 p 71

130 THE LAMENT OF THE COLONNADE, ETC.

THE LAMENT OF THE COLONNADE.

THE SUPPER COLONNADE OF VAUXHALL GARDENS TO BE SOLD CHEAP.—This remnant of the past has witnessed many a scene of merriment with lords and ladies of high degree It is suitable for the gardens of a tavern or place of amusement.—*From an Advertisement in a Daily Paper.*

AND must I thus go to the wall,
Alas, alack a day!
Till time which swept away Vauxhall,
Valks hall of us away.

Ten thousand extra lamps — such sights!
Dowsed — broken — lost — degraded!
Alas, those lights of other nights
And other days are faded!

The orchestra where SINCLAIR sung,
If memory doesn't fail it,
Was graced by one, a charm who flung
Around — it must *be-Wail-it!*

The trees that trembled in the breeze,
The festooned oil devices;
The waiters' "Give your orders, please,"
The famous "Vauxhall Slices."

To cut them as those waiters could,
Thin as a muslin curtain —
Diaphanous — most surely would
Die-half-on-us I'm certain.

But 'tis an art completely lost,
As is the wondrous way
In which through throngs those traitors crossed,
With deftly balanced tray.

To parties thirsting for a "pull,"
Those waiters bore so well
A dozen massive tumblers full,
Which never tumblers fell.

Ah me! the vows that nothing mean,
That I've heard people say;
The loving looks that I have seen!
The suppers put away!

The "teas" that steady early folks
Have cleared. The seas of beer
I've seen absorbed. Ah me! the jokes
That I have had to hear.

The imprecations I have heard
From youthful waiters tricked;
The pockets I've beheld — absurd! —
Incontinently picked.

"The glasses sparkled on *this* board;"
On that one to the right
Sat many a gay and festive lord,
Whose "wine was ruby bright."

That was in days ere soda fizz
Sapped proud young English natures;
And not of BASS or GUINNESS's;
But guineas to the waiters.

I date the downfall of Vauxhall,
Whatever parties thinks,
I date its sad decline and fall
To its decline in drinks.

When soda-water folks did pour
On brandy, — none need trace
The reason why a change came o'er
The Spirit of the place.

Champagne in quarts, expensive Ports,
Prime Sherry wines in cases;
O'erflowing "cups" the dearest sorts
Alone can float such places.

Of Vauxhall's pomp sole remnant I
By tavern gardens' side
That *I* should be permitted my
Diminished head to hide!

My doom is fixed, I'm much afraid,
'Tis bootless to complain:
I'm a despised old Colonnade,
And call-on-aid in vain.

Will no one philanthropic be
To save me from disgrace?
Ye publicans, don't purchase me:
I'm too old for the place.

Punch.

LOST.

THE moon comes out and glimmers,
The stars like diamonds gleam,
And long, green boughs are waving
O'er a pleasant mountain stream.

And my thoughts travel backwards,
Into the long, dead years,
And your face comes before me,
Seen through a mist of tears.

We met — we loved — we parted:
The story ever new,
We lived — we hoped — we waited,
And so the long years grew.

A vast sea rolls between us,
A gulf that time has made.
New habits grow upon us,
Old beauties faint and fade.

Take one last look behind you,
Into the vale of years,
Does my face come before you,
Seen through a mist of tears?

Dublin University Magazine. L. C.

Fig 19. 'The Lament of the Colonnade', Punch, 1869 (reprinted in Littell's Living Age)

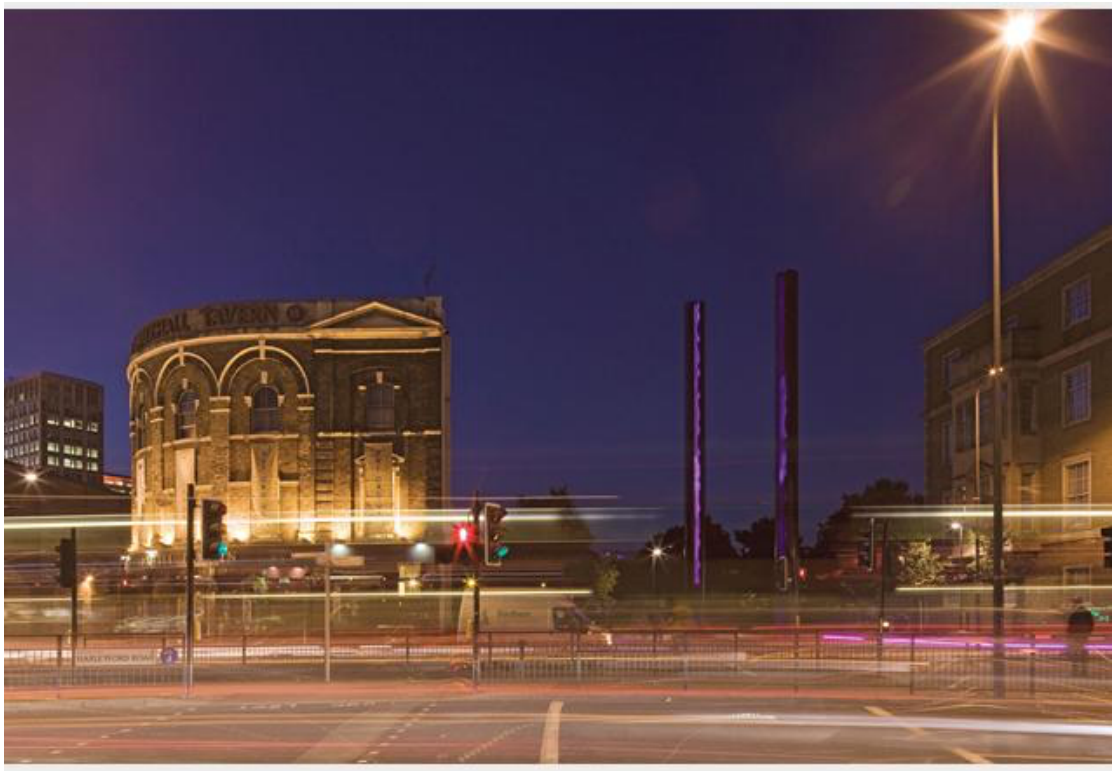


Fig 20. Columns constructed as part of the park redevelopment in 2011

doing down there was groping and touching and caressing and then they'd say do you want to come back. There was no public fucking except in cottages.

The Vauxhall Tavern used to have divisions screens with beautiful frosted glass. The bar was where the stage is now, it was about two feet wide and curved like a yellow brick road and followed the pillars round and all the drag queens would come off the stage at the back because the bar was sort of in the middle and they'd run around saying, 'Ere we come! And you'd have to get your drinks off quickly otherwise they got smashed. (The pub was divided into three sections.) The gay bar was (on the right hand side) and then you'd have the snug and I think there was a straight bit on the other side. I may be wrong. I remember they used to have older women sitting there. They had ladies' bars and they were usually older working class women throwing back the port and lemon, that was strictly grandmas. The biggest part was the gay part because it was packed and that was the part that made the money.

Bette



Fig 21. Bette Bourne in an unidentified book [possibly a Duckie publication?]



Fig 22a. Diana Dors and the Trollettes at a charity fundraising event at the RVT



Fig 22b. Barbara Wodehouse at a charity fundraising event at the RVT

May 3rd, 1982



Despite the tenacity of the participants it was the weather that finally won the day on Bank Holiday Monday when a team of "athletes" from the Royal Vauxhall Tavern challenged a "derby" side from Subway.

Staged as one of the many events aimed at raising money for the "Switchboard" 1982 appeal – and in particular the Vauxhall's own £1,000 planned contribution – the event had got under way just after noon when the teams started to gather inside the Vauxhall.

In view of the steady drinking many of the would-be sportsmen were seen to be doing before 3 o'clock it is, perhaps, lucky that the really energetic part of the proceedings were cut short by a torrential downpour.



Terry Pearcey (see picture bottom right) was in charge of the Vauxhall team and certainly mustered a fine body (!) of men (!!).

For his part, Bryan Derbyshire was organising the side from Subway though, in fairness, they seemed to owe more to the talents (?) of their employees than to that of their customers.

Nevertheless, with two teams at full strength (?), the actual sports programme was started at just after three with some 400 or so spectators looking on around the playing field behind the Vauxhall.

A variety of costumes were on show from ordinary clone outfits to high drag and all stages in between!

As well as the 200 yards – which was completed in a non-record time of 36 seconds – there were also egg and spoon, relay and three legged races.

As official starter Terry was unable to enter any races though it is believed he would have been barred anyway for his suggestion as to how he was going to run the three legged race!

Once the rains had forced a halt to the proceedings everyone was allowed back inside the Vauxhall, where the two sides took part in an Oldies Quiz.

Either way, however, the Vauxhall were the superior force on the day, with a final combined score reported as being 61 to Subway's 47.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to arrange a further challenge, as planned, between the Vauxhall and London Apprentice for Spring Bank Holiday Monday, but Terry is still open to suggestions (!) for similar events on other Bank Holiday Mondays. With luck this could turn into a regular event between the various pubs and clubs and, possibly, even into London's own "Olympics".

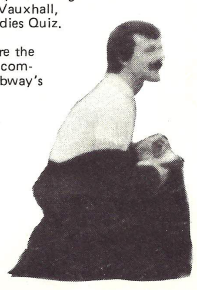


Fig 23a. Programme for the first sports day, 1982



Fig 23b. Image from the first sports day, 1982



Fig 23c. Image from the first sports day, 1982



Fig 23d. From a recent RVT sports day



Fig 23e. A recent RVT charity sports day with Timberlina

Keith Johnson Improvised Comedy, each Monday. Arrive 7.30 for 8. M.ship 2s 6d. Admission 3s members, 3s 6d guests. Possibly closed on 25 Aug; ring to check.

STUDIO 68
Broadwalk, W8 (229 7382)
'The God Boy' (T. E. Ferro) 18 to 23, at 7.30. 5s and 10s. Open to non-members.

THEATRE UPSTAIRS
Royal Court Theatre, Sloane Square, SW3 (730 2554) (Sloane Square tube)
'Sun' (Adrienne Kennedy) Tues–Fri 8 pm, Sat 8.30 pm. 5s.
'The People Show' with a new play. 19 to 23, 10.30 pm, 5s.

UNITY
1 Goldington Street, NW1 (EUS 8647) (Mornington Crescent tube)
'The Diamond, Hammer and Bone and Along Shaughs of Ulster' (Wilson John Haire) A new play about Irish Civil Rights. 7.45 Fri–Sun only. 5s, 7s 6d, 10s.



MR JEAN FREDERICKS

Drag Acts

FEMALE IMPERSONATION ACTS

ROYAL VAUXHALL TAVERN
372 Kennington Lane, SE11 (735 1919) (Victoria tube. Buses: 2, 36, 181, 185)
Mon Pussy
Wed The Polkadots
Thu The Other Two
Fri Beau
Sat Various artists
Sun The Other Two (lunchtime)
Beau (evening)

GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY
67 High Street, Hornsey, N8 (340 6969)
Fri–Sun **Christine.** Free entrance

CITY ARMS
West Ferry Road, E14 (987 3788) (Mile End tube, then 277 bus) Revues nightly Regular spots by Keith Mills, Phil Star and Terry Dennis, The Fabulous Jackie etc

THE BLACK CAP
171 Camden High Street, NW1 (485 1742) (Camden Town tube) Free entrance
Mon Laurie Lee (+drag competition)
Tue Cleo Rose
Wed Pussy
Thu Various artists
Fri The Other Two
Sat Shane+a sing song!
Sun Alvis and Odell (lunchtime)
Cleo Rose (evening)

IRON BRIDGE TAVERN
447 East India Rock Road, E14 (EAS 5339)
Camp revues Sat and Sun

DUKE OF YORK
35 Katherine Road, E7 (472 0963) (Upton Park tube) Different acts Fri–Sun. 8.15

UNION TAVERN
Camberwell New Road, SE5 (735 3605) (The Oval tube) Free entrance
Wed Spotlight (4 acts together)
Thu Lee Sutton
Fri Cleo Rose
Sun Lee Sutton

MARLBOROUGH HEAD
Drury Lane, W1 (836 5682) (Covent Garden tube) Thursdays—Colin

THE BRITANNIA
515 Fulham Road, SW6 (FUL 4502) (Fulham Broadway tube) Acts Wed–Sun Regular spots by The Other Two, Kable and Somers etc

WINDSOR CASTLE
309 Harrow Road, W9 (CUN 8403) (Royal Oak tube) Acts Fri, Sat and Sun (lunchtime; Sun evening The Misfits with mime)

Fig 24. Time Out drag listings from 1969



Fig 25. A scene from the 1970 film Goodbye Gemini



Jerry Courbrinck, top, and Kenneth Smith both perform their act at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, London's best known drag pub, earning £5 each a performance. They call themselves Rhythm and Black and hope soon to turn professional.

Fig 26. Clipping of Jerry Courbrinck at the RVT, April 22 1975 (publication unknown)

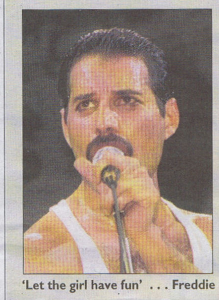


Fig 27. The RVT sign from the 80s showing dancing figures

Monday, April 1, 2013 Sun

AMAZING SECRET LIFE OF PRINCESS

DI WANT TO BREAK FREE



'Let the girl have fun' . . . Freddie



Gay night out . . . bar where Di went with pals



Telly joker . . . late comic Kenny



Well suited . . . Diana in tux at posh do in 80s

Gay night with Freddie and TV Kenny

DISGUISED Princess Diana was delighted when she was served in a gay bar without being recognised.

By EMILY NASH

She bought a wine and a beer while wearing a camouflage army jacket, black leather cap and aviator sunglasses.

Pal Cleo Rocos – who starred in the Kenny Everett Television Show – said: "When we walked in, we felt she would be discovered at any minute.

"But people just seemed to blank her. She sort of disappeared. She loved it." Di, keen to escape her stuffy royal life, was a fan of gay funnyman Everett and had earlier met him and Rocos for lunch in London's posh Kensington.

They swigged peach and champagne cocktails and swapped gossip before going to Kenny's penthouse.

He had been due to meet that evening with Queen singer and neighbour Freddie Mercury – but instead he rang him to call him over immediately.

The foursome spent the afternoon downing more champagne in front of TV reruns of US comedy The Golden Girls with the sound turned down.

They improvised the characters' voices – "but with a much naughtier storyline".

Giggling Di asked about their plans for the evening.

Hairy

They said they were going to the Royal Vauxhall Tavern in South London.

Rocos, now 50, recalled: "Kenny said, 'It's not for you. It's full of hairy gay men. Sometimes there are fights outside.'

"We pleaded, 'What would be the headline if you were caught in a gay bar brawl?'"

"But Diana was in full mischief mode. Freddie said, 'Go on, let the girl have some fun'."

Di put on what Everett had planned to wear and the four caught a cab.

Rocos says in her new book The Power of Positive Drinking: "She did look like a beautiful young man. She was always a very fit girl, so they might have thought, 'There's a nice young man with pert buttocks'."

They got "through the leather throngs and thongs" to the bar before leaving 20 minutes later. Next day Di had the clothes returned with a note ending: "We must do it again!"

The night out is thought to have taken place in 1988, when her marriage to Prince Charles was already on the rocks.

I Want To Break Free singer Freddie died of Aids-related pneumonia aged 45 in 1991, and Everett from an Aids-related illness aged 50 in 1995. Diana died aged 36 in a 1997 Paris car crash.

e.nash@the-sun.co.uk

AHEAD OF TIME

THIS shows just how forward-thinking Diana really was.

The Queen has never even said the word 'gay' in public, but the fact Diana was doing things like this so long ago shows how far ahead of the time she was.

She won the hearts and minds of all the public, and I think Kate could do something similar. The Duchess of Cambridge has a freshness about her that we have not seen since the days of Diana, and Diana was a true trailblazer for modernising the Royal Family.



myView
By TRIS REID-SMITH
Gay Star News editor

Bar story . . . pal Cleo

Princess Diana Remembered.com

Fig 28. The Sun reports on Princess Diana visit



Fig 29. Jimmy Trollette and Lee Paris at the RVT sports day 1992



Fig 30. David Dale on the cover of Gay Times



Fig 31. Regina Fong



Fig 32. Adrella and Lily Savage



Fig 33. Lily Savage and Regina Fong on stage



Fig 34. David Hoyle getting tattooed on stage at the RVT, 2010



Fig 35. The DE Experience on stage at the RVT, New Year's Eve 2012 (Jarvis)



Fig 36. Snakeboy at Bar Wotever at the RVT, 2013



Fig 37. The LipSinkers at the RVT (image Absolut Queer)



Fig 38. A Duckie Saturday night, 2014



Fig 39. Cartoon after the 1984 RVT police raid, Cath Jackson, GALOP report 1986-7



Fig 40. Robin Whitmore's illustrated map of Vauxhall



Fig 41a. Duckie's Summer School performance



Fig 41b. Duckie's Summer School performance



Fig 41c. Duckie Summer School participants with local police



Fig 42. Vixens in the Wood, 2009's all-female RVT panto

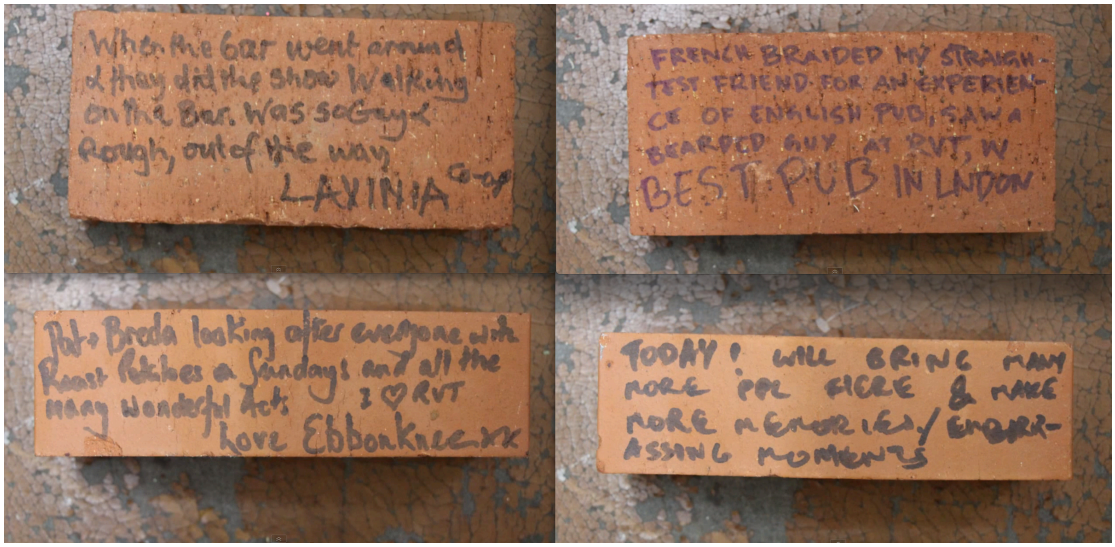


Fig 43. Vijay Patel Happy Birthday RVT project



Inn with a sporting chance?

DAVID NORTHMORE

Lambeth Town Hall hasn't seen such militancy since the Poll Tax riots of the early 1990s: large angry crowds; the menacing placards; inciteful chanting; and a decidedly hostile mood.

Last week's political kerfuffle on the steps of Lambeth Town Hall was all about proposals to close down south London's exceedingly popular gay venue, the Royal Vauxhall Tavern. Woe betide the good burghers of the London Borough of Lambeth if they grant planning permission to build a £300 million "interactive leisure and shopping centre" on the site. Pick on a gay pub and you're certainly asking for trouble.

"The pub has been there since 1863 and is known to have been frequented by gays and lesbians for at least the past 50 years," explains Duckie host and impresario Amy Lamé, who organised the protest.

"It was built on the site of the old Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens which were constructed in 1661. For 200 years that was a major performance venue – it included firework displays, orchestras, acrobatics and even the original bearded lady," she laments.

"The clientele ranged from the Prince of Wales to prostitutes who worked in the darker back areas. They can't just wipe that kind of history from the face of the earth for the sake of a shopping centre."

However, Lambeth council's Policy Committee considered arguments from both sides of the camp, including property developer CLS Holdings, who are planning the major development. Some 100 gay and lesbian protesters packed out the public gallery to make their point; one representative of CLS Holdings made his point.

The committee decided to engage in a process of public consultation before making a final decision. But at this stage councillors seem keen on the idea.

"The centre would have a water park, rain forest and a rock face," committee member Councillor Tom Franklin told Pink Paper after the meeting. "It will also be featuring a Snow Dome," he added.

What exactly is a Snow Dome? "Er...I believe it's somewhere where it snows on you."

The council is also keen on the scheme because, they say, the project would create some 3,000 permanent jobs. But couldn't the development be designed to incorporate the Royal Vauxhall Tavern?

"Well no, not really," belives Councillor Franklin, himself gay and a regular at the pub. "The company wants to build a hotel on that plot and it really wouldn't fit in."

But the protesters are unimpressed. "The committee meeting was an absolute farce as they appear to have had their minds set when they went in," said Lamé. "We will now be fighting this to the bitter end."

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Tina C makes herself heard



Fig 44. Pink Paper report on 90s threat



Fig 45. A recent painting of the Tavern