

25 October 2012

Her Majesty The Queen visits London's South Bank to open the new Jubilee Gardens

TODAY Her Majesty The Queen visited Jubilee Gardens on London's South Bank to open the new Gardens and to mark the completion of the Gardens' £5m re-landscaping to create a new green landmark for London.

The Queen was able to view the new Jubilee Gardens which have been transformed from what was a flat and featureless patch of grass into a soft, green and sustainable landscape of the highest quality, with new flowerbeds, high quality turf, elegant granite edges alongside a new granite path network, lighting columns, benches, trees and a brand new playground.

The £5m project was funded with a combined contribution from Shell and the EDF Energy London Eye of more than £3m via Lambeth Council, as well as £1.5m from the Mayor of London (via Transport for London) and contributions from several charitable trusts.

To celebrate the official opening of the new Jubilee Gardens, Her Majesty unveiled a plaque commemorating her visit, mounted alongside panels showcasing the site's history, and also re-displaying the plaque The Queen unveiled in 1977. The Gardens were first created to celebrate The Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977, and it is particularly fitting that, 35 years on, The Queen returned to open the new Jubilee Gardens in this Diamond Jubilee year.

The transformation of Jubilee Gardens has been made possible by a close partnership of neighbouring landowners, local businesses and community organisations, which now make up the Jubilee Gardens Trust.

Today the Royal Party was welcomed by Sir David Brewer, the Lord Lieutenant for Greater London, the Mayor and Mayoress of Lambeth, Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, Ted Inman OBE, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Trust, Sir Edward Lister, Chief of Staff and Deputy Mayor for Planning, representing the Mayor of

London, Councillor Lorna Campbell, representing the Leader of Lambeth Council, and Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre. Her Majesty then met a number of those involved in the design and construction of the Gardens, trustees of the Jubilee Gardens Trust and representatives of funders.

Ted Inman, Chair of the Jubilee Gardens Trust said: “The Trustees, who represent local community and business organisations, are proud to be managing this hugely popular new open space for London. It was a great privilege for us that The Queen came today to open the new Jubilee Gardens.”

Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall said: “Her Majesty’s visit was an honour for us all and wonderful recognition of the hard work of all the different organisations and individuals and the entire local community over many years to create these beautiful new Gardens.”

The re-developed Gardens were designed by Dutch landscape architects West 8 and constructed by Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd. The construction contract was let by Lambeth Council and overseen by the Jubilee Gardens Project Board comprising Lambeth Council, Southbank Centre, the Jubilee Gardens Trust and Transport for London. The contract was jointly managed by South Bank Employers’ Group and the Council. The new Jubilee Gardens has been supported by Kate Hoey, MP for Vauxhall, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and the Shirayama Corporation, owner of the adjacent County Hall.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson said: “This wonderful space boasting views of some of world's most iconic sights has been transformed from an ordinary park into a must visit destination. It is another example of how funding from my Great Outdoors programme is breathing new life into different corners of our city. Following its transformation, Jubilee Gardens is an oasis for local residents, workers and tourists alike and will help attract investment into the surrounding area which is a regeneration priority for London.”

Councillor Steve Reed, Leader of Lambeth Council said: “We are delighted that The Queen agreed to open the new Jubilee Gardens which are a great new open space for Lambeth and for London. Lambeth has been pleased to play its part in delivering the new Gardens, in partnership with Transport for London, Southbank Centre, South Bank Employers’ Group and the Jubilee Gardens Trust.”

Graham van't Hoff, Chairman, Shell UK said: "Over the years, Shell has played its part in transforming the South Bank. Supporting local communities is an essential part of what we do around the world and it's important for us to work with and support our neighbours. As a formal member of the Jubilee Gardens Trust, we are committed to maintaining an attractive and vibrant open space for many people to enjoy."

Alan Bishop, Chief Executive of Southbank Centre said: "We are delighted and proud to have played a role in creating these new gardens for people who live, work and visit the South Bank and to have been part of such a dynamic partnership to bring our shared vision to reality."

For more information and images:

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Notes to Editors

For background information: www.jubileegardens.org.uk

The Jubilee Gardens project is remarkable in bringing together the very wide range of partners listed below:

-Jubilee Gardens Trust, a registered charity, which holds the Gardens on a long lease from Southbank Centre, and is responsible for the long-term management and maintenance of the Gardens.

The Trust Board comprises the following (with the organisations they represent):

- Michael Ball, Waterloo Community Development Group
- Councillor Loma Campbell, London Borough of Lambeth
- Robin Dahlberg, Treasurer
- Marilyn Evers, Bankside Open Spaces Trust
- Loredana Guegt -Wyatt, County Hall Owners and Residents Association
- David Hudson, Shell
- Ted Inman, South Bank Employers' Group
- Mike McCart, Southbank Centre
- Mark Riches, First Protocol
- John Rushton, Small Back Room
- Iain Tuckett, Coin Street Community Builders
- David Sharpe, EDFEnergy London Eye
- Donald Weighton, Friends of Jubilee Gardens

- Kate Hoey MP and the local community, consistently championing the upgrading of the Gardens.

- The Mayor of London contributed £1.5m through Transport for London to ensure that the quality of public space in this part of the South Bank was right for the South Bank's role in the cultural festival that accompanied the 2012 Olympics.

- **Shell and EDF Energy London Eye** contributed £3.6m via Lambeth Council and also continue to support the management and maintenance of the gardens.
- **Southbank Centre** which holds Jubilee Gardens on a long lease from the Arts Council, agreed to sub-lease the gardens upon completion to an independent Trust, to provide long-term management and maintenance and to work with Southbank Centre to present a cultural events programme on the new Gardens.
- **South Bank Employers' Group**, an association of 18 major organisations in the South Bank neighbourhood, which has championed, coordinated and managed the Jubilee Gardens project throughout.
- **Lambeth Council secured the Section 106 contributions from Shell and the EDF Energy London Eye which were the main funding for the scheme.** The Council let the contract for the re-landscaping and, in line with its Cooperative Council policy, oversaw its delivery working in partnership with local stakeholders.
- the **Department for Culture, Media and Sport**, for supporting the project.
- the **Shirayama Corporation** (owner of neighbouring County Hall) for supporting the project.
- **Other donors to the project**, including the 29 May 1961 Trust, The Gosling Foundation, The Hobson Trust, and the Kirby Laing Foundation. Also the Western Riverside Environmental Fund and The Veolia Environmental Trust, who award grants through the Landfill Communities Fund.

About

- **Frosts Landscape Construction Ltd** are specialists in landscaping, gardening, green roofs and walls, ponds, block paving and more. www.frostslandscapes.co.uk
- **West 8** is a cutting-edge practice based in Rotterdam which delivers ground-breaking urban parks and public spaces. Set up in 1987 as an international team of architects, urban designers and industrial designers, West 8 designs landscape interventions, urban plans, squares, parks and gardens worldwide. www.west8.nl
- **The Veolia Environmental Trust** has been supporting community and environmental projects for 14 years. Under the Landfill Communities Fund, landfill site operators can donate a percentage, currently 5.6%, of their landfill tax payment to these projects. Since we were established in 1997, Veolia Environmental Services (UK) plc has supported us by contributions of over £49 million to 1400 projects. We have helped fund a diverse range of projects, including the repair of woodland footpaths, the renovation of community halls and the installation of playgrounds and play areas. For more information, or to find out how to apply for funding, visit our website www.veoliatrust.org.
- **Western Riverside Environmental fund** was set up in April 1999 as a partnership between the Western Riverside Waste Authority and Groundwork UK. To date over £3 million has been made

available to environmental projects within the boroughs of Lambeth, Wandsworth, Hammersmith & Fulham and Kensington & Chelsea.

Press Release